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Assembly Proceedings

Official Report

West Bengal Legislative Assembly

Fifth Session (Budget), 1949

(From 23rd February to 5th April, 1949)

The 23rd, 24th, 28th February, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 11th, 15th and 16th March, 1949.

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1949

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL.

GOVERNOR.

His Excellency Dr. Kailas Nath Katju.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

1. The Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, Premier, Leader of the House and Minister-in-charge of the Home (excluding the Police) Transport Branches and of the Department of Health and Local Self-Government excluding the Jail Branch.

2. The Hon'ble Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker, Minister-in-charge of the Department of Finance, Commerce and Industries (including Cinchona)

3. The Hon'ble Sri Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhury, Minister-in-charge of the Education Department.

4. The Hon'ble Sri Bimal Chandra Sinha, Minister-in-charge of the Department of Works, Buildings and Communications and Land and Land Revenue.

5. The Hon'ble Sri Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar, Minister-in-charge of the Judicial and Lagislative Departments.

6. The Hon'ble Sri Kalipada Mukherjee, Minister-in-charge of the Labour Department.

7. The Hon'ble Sri Bhupati Majumdar, Minister-in-charge of the Department of Irrigation and Waterways.

8. The Hon'ble Sri Praffulla Chandra Sen, Minister-in-charge of the Department of Civil Supplies.

9. The Hon'ble Sri Nikunja Behary Maity, Minister-in-charge of the Department of Co-operation, Credit, Relief and Rehabilitation.

10. The Hon'ble Sri Jadabendra Nath Panja, Minister-in-charge of the Department of Agriculture and Veterinary.

11. The Hon'ble Sri Hem Chandra Naskar, Minister-in-charge of the Forests (excluding Cinchona) and Fisheries Department.

12. The Hon'ble Sri Syama Prosad Barman, Minister-in-charge of the Excise Department.

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS.

SPEAKER.

The Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN.

DEPUTY SPEAKER.

SRI ASHUTOSH MALLICK.

SECRETARY.

Sri AJITA RANJAN MUKHERJEA, M.SC., B.L.

SPECIAL OFFICER.

Sri CHARU CHANDRA CHOWDHURI, B.L., ADVOCATE.

REGISTRAR.

Janab RAFIQUR RAHMAN, M.A., B.L.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Abdul Wahid Sarkar, Janab. [Hooghly.]
Abdulla, Janab S. M. [24-Parganas Municipal.]
Abdur Rahman, Janab A. F. M. [24-Parganas North-East.]
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Janab. [Muslim Chamber of Commerce.]
Abul Hashem, Janab. [Burdwan.]

B

Badrudduja, Janab Syed. [Jangipur.]
Bandopadhyaya, Sri Pramatha Nath. [Midnapore South-West.]
Banerjee, Sri Sibnath. [Howrah (Registered Factories).]
*Banerjee, Sri Susil Kumar. [Howrah.]
Banerji, Dr. Suresh Chandra. [Calcutta and Suburbs (Registered Factories).]
Barman The Hon'ble Sri Syama Prasad. [West Dinajpur-*cum*-Malda.]
Basu, Sri Hemanta Kumar. [Calcutta North.]
Basu, Sri Jyoti. [Railway Trade Union.]
Bhandari, Sri Charu Chandra. [24-Parganas North-West.]
Bhattacharyya, Sri Shyamapada. [Murshidabad.]
Bhowmick, Srijukta Bina. [Calcutta General.]
Brahmin, Sri Ratanlal. [Darjeeling Sadar.]

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*Parliamentary Secretary.

C

Chakravarty, Sri Satish Chandra. [Northern Districts Municipal.]
Chatterjee, Sri Haripada. [Nadia.]
Chaudhuri, The Hon'ble Sri Rai Harendra Nath. [Bankura East.]
Choudhury, Sri Annada Prosad. [Jhargram-*cum*-Ghatal.]
Clerke Mr. C. E. [Calcutta Trades Association, Indian Jute Mills Association, Indian Tea Association and Indian Mining Association.]

D

Das, Sri Radha Nath. [Hooghly North-East.]
Das Gupta, Sri Khagendra Nath. [Jalpaiguri-*cum*-Siliguri.]
*Dass, Sri Kanai Lal. [Burdwan Central.]
De, Sri Kanai Lal. [Bankura West.]
*Dolui, Sri Harendra Nath. [Jhargram-*cum*-Ghatal.]
Dutt-Mazumdar, The Hon'ble Sri Niharendu. [Barrackpore (Registered Factories).]

G

Ganguli, Sri Bepin Behari. [24-Parganas Municipal.]
Gayen, Sri Arabinda. [Howrah.]
Ghose, Sri A. K. [Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.]
Ghose, Sri Binal Comar. [Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.]
Ghosh, Dr. P. C. [Birbhum.]
Gomes, Mr. D. [Calcutta-*cum*-Presidency Division.]
Gupta, Sri J. C. [Calcutta Central.]

H

Haldar, Sri Kuber Chand. [Murshidabad.]
Husan Ara Begum, Janab. [Calcutta Muhammadan.]

I

Ilias Ali Mollah, Janab [24-Parganas Central.]

J

Jalan, The Hon'ble Sri Iswar Das. [Calcutta West.]
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr. [24-Parganas South.]

K

Kazim Ali Mirza, Shahibzada Kawan Jah Saiyid. [Murshidabad South-West.]
Khuda Bukhsh, Janab Md. [Berhampore.]

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*Parliamentary Secretary.

M

Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Janab. [Malda.]
Mahanty, Sri Charu Chandra. [Midnapore Central.]
Mahtab, Sri Uday Chand, Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan. [Burdwan Landholders.]
Maiti, The Hon'ble Sri Nikunja Behari. [Burdwan Division North Municipal.]
*Majhi, Sri Nishapati. [Birbhum.]
Majumdar, The Hon'ble Sri Bhupati. [Hooghly-*cum*-Howrah Municipal.]
Mal, Sri Iswar Chandra. [Midnapore South-East.]
Mallick, Sri Ashutosh. [Bankura West.]
Mandal, Sri Annadaprasad. [Burdwan North-West.]
*Mandal, Sri Bankubehari. [Burdwan North-West.]
*Mandal, Sri Krishna Prasad. [Midnapore Central.]
Mohammad Shariff Khan, Janab. [Hooghly-*cum*-Howrah Municipal.]
Molla Mohammad Abdul Halim, Janab. [Nadia.]
Mookerjee, The Hon'ble Sri Kalipada. [Calcutta East.]
Mudassir Hossain, Janab. [Birbhum.]
Muhammad Idris, Janab [Howrah.]
Muhammad Qumruddin, Janab. [Barrackpore Municipal.]
Mohammad Rafique, Shaik. [Calcutta North.]
Muhammad Siddique, Dr. Syed [Bankura.]
**Mukherji, Sri Dhirendra Narayan. [Hooghly North-East.]
Murarka, Sri Basantlal [Calcutta Central.]
Musharruff Hossain, Janab. [Jalpaiguri-*cum*-Darjeeling.]

N

Nandy, Maharaja Sris Chandra. [Presidency Landholders.]
*Naskar, Sri Ardhendu Sekhar. [24-Parganas North-West.]
Naskar, The Hon'ble Sri Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East.]

P

Panja, The Hon'ble Sri Jadabendra Nath. [Burdwan Central.]
Pentony, Mr. L. R. [Anglo-Indian.]
Platel, Mr. R. E. [Anglo-Indian.]
Poddar, Sri Anandilal. [Marwari Association.]
*Pramanik, Sri Rajani Kanta. [Midnapore East.]

R

Rai, Sri Sheo Kumar. [Darjeeling.]
Ricketts, Mrs. E. M. [Anglo-Indian.]
Roy, The Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra. [University.]
Roy, Sri Jajneswar. [Jalpaiguri-*cum*-Siliguri.]

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*Parliamentary Secretary.
**Chief Government Whip.

S

Sarkar The Hon'ble Sri Nalini Ranjan. [Indian Chamber of Commerce.]
Sen, Sri Debendra Nath. [Colliery (Coal Mines).]
Sen, The Hon'ble Sri Prafulla Chandra. [Hooghly South-West.]
Serajuddin Ahammad, Janab. [Midnapore.]
Shamsul Huq, Janab. [Calcutta South.]
Sinha, The Hon'ble Sri Bimal Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East.]

W

Walker, Mr. J. R. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
Wilks, Mr. G. C. D. [Anglo-Indian.]

Z

Zaman, Janab A. M A. [Hooghly-*cum*-Serampore (Registered Factories).]

THE WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 23rd February, 1949, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 59 members.

Obituary Reference on the death of the Hon'ble Kiran Sankar Roy.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I desire to take the permission of the House to refer to the death of our colleague and friend Sj. Kiran Sankar Roy. I had described a few weeks ago the condition of the Cabinet of the West Bengal Government and said that we were a happy family. We lost one member of the family a few weeks ago and we lost another last Sunday. Little did we dream even a few days ago that he would have a relapse of his illness which would cost him his life. To us in the Government, his death has been an irreparable loss. His urbanity of manners, his pleasing temperament, his method of approaching every problem from a rationalistic and reasonable point of view gave to the Cabinet and its decisions a strength and a force which we shall miss in future. Sir, I happened to know Sj. Kiran Sankar Roy since 1911 and during the last 37 years, both in private life and in political and public life we had been closely associated, and it was given to me to understand and appreciate the value of a friend like him. He was incisive in his approach towards the problems of the day. His intuition was almost unerring with regard to the events both in the political field as well as in the social field. He was pleasant to all, even with those who happened to differ from him either in politics or in the point of view of the world and its affairs, with the result that he left many friends to mourn his loss. Today this Assembly will no longer hear his voice which was used for the purpose of clarifying issues with a clearness and determination which was practically his own speciality. As members are aware, as far back as 1919-20, on his return from England when he was well equipped to earn his own livelihood either as a Professor or as a Lawyer, he gave up voluntarily a life of ease and comfort, a life which would have given him more material advantages for the sake of the country he loved so dearly. Probably most of you are aware that he was a Professor of the Presidency College and up to the last he maintained his relations and connections with history and literature. It is rather unusual to find a politician who would devote more time in his quiet hours in studying the history of different countries and literature of different places than Sj. Kiran Sankar Roy. As a matter of fact, only three days before his death when I went to bid him good-bye before going to Delhi, he remarked—"Dr. Roy, I don't think I am well, because I cannot read as joyfully as I used to before." That showed to what extent he was immersed in his love for books. He was a very good advocate.

Even in the political field very often he had turned the whole argument of his adversaries by his method of handling a particular problem from which I had no doubt whatsoever that if he had employed his talents in the courts of law his services would have been accepted with alacrity by the contestants in the law courts. And yet at the call of the Deshbandhu he left all these. He left even his ancestral method of approach to property and the mode of living and went to prison twice for the sake of the country he loved. We all mourn his death because it is so untimely and because at this juncture his advice, his knowledge of men and things would have been of so much value to all of us whichever party we may belong to. We mourn with the members of his family the loss of a precious life, and with your permission, Sir, I would request you, when you wind up this debate, to forward to the members of the bereaved family our sincerest condolences at the loss which they have sustained.

Janab A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly associate myself with the resolution moved by the Hon'ble the Leader of the House. In the death of the Hon'ble Srijut Kiran Sankar Roy our province has lost a front-rank leader. In the existing condition of public life of our province his culture, his independence of character, balance of judgment, sense of realism, knowledge of men and things along with reasonableness were valuable assets to tackle various complex administrative problems. The country needed his service most at this critical juncture, but unfortunately the cruel hand of death has snatched him away from our midst and thus the void created can hardly be filled in the near future. The Hon'ble Srijut Roy not only rose in eminence in public life, his attainments in the field of literature were equally high and it was no doubt a rare gift. I had the honour and privilege to know the Hon'ble Srijut Roy for over two decades and I can confidently say that to know the Hon'ble Srijut Roy is to honour and love him. The country has indeed become poorer by his death. Mr Speaker, Sir, I offer my sincere condolence to the members of the bereaved family and share their grief with the Hon'ble the Leader of the House and other friends.

Janab SYED BADRUDDUJA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in associating myself with the words that have fallen from the lips of the Hon'ble the Leader of the House I want to pay my tribute of respect to the memory of the departed soul. It is really tragic that at this juncture a leader of his position, a leader of his balanced judgment should have been suddenly called away. It is really unfortunate that due to my unavoidable absence from Calcutta for a few days I could not personally attend the funeral ceremony but I had the privilege and honour of associating in this very Assembly and outside with the Hon'ble Sri Kiran Sankar Roy for several years. Honourable Sri Kiran Sankar Roy was marked out throughout for his sound judgment, for his keen perception of men and things, for a clear grasp of the difficult problems of politics and administration, and what is more, his realistic approach to the difficult issues of life. Very often we had occasions to differ from him but he always wanted to silence criticism by sweet reasonableness. Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy has created a void in the country. He might have lacked the scintillating brilliance of many an illustrious son of Bengal; he might have lacked to a great extent the creative vision and energy of thought and action of other great leaders, but what he lacked in these spheres was more than compensated by his political sagacity and wisdom, by his sound commonsense, by his practical view of things and affairs of life. He has created a void of life. We offer our sincerest condolences to the bereaved family and all members of this House will associate themselves with the words which have fallen from the lips of the Leader of the House.

Mr. J. R. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my colleague and I would like to sincerely associate ourselves with all that the Chief Minister has

said at the loss of our friend and the loss of a valued colleague in the Ministry, Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy. I have sat in the House in this seat while he sat there. We have differed, we have had different viewpoints, but at all times as the Chief Minister has said, those differences made no difference in his friendship and his kindliness to me and to those who were associated with me in this part of the House.

Sir, I have had an opportunity also of meeting him as a Minister since he joined the Ministry and I know and I am sure every member of this House knows that we have lost a man who would have done great service to West Bengal at a time when all her best men are needed. We would like to be associated with the sentiments which have been expressed by the Chief Minister which you, Sir, will forward to the bereaved family.

Mr. R. E. PLATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Anglo-Indian members of this House I rise to associate myself with the remarks of the Hon'ble the Leader of the House. We first met the late Sri Kiran Sankar Roy when he was the Leader of the Opposition and the acquaintance then formed grew into friendship by the time he became a Member of the Government. During our association with him we had come to have a remarkable respect for his outstanding qualities of head and heart. We feel, Sir, that his death is an irreparable loss to this House, to the Government and to the country. We would like to convey to the members of the bereaved family our sincerest sympathy in their loss.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, I wholeheartedly associate myself with what has been said regarding our great leader Sri Kiran Sankar Roy who is no more with us. I had the privilege of working under him as a member of the Congress Party for more than ten years. We remember those tumultuous days in which the Leader of the Opposition had to work against the then Government. We remember those days with what sagacity, wisdom, foresight, and ability he conducted himself as the Leader of the then Opposition. From the very start of his career as soon as he became qualified as a Barrister, the great non-cooperation movement started. He joined wholeheartedly in the movement and remained a public worker throughout his life. He suffered imprisonment. He suffered for the convictions that he had until the last moment when he became a Minister of our Government of this Province. His services were most required at the present juncture when India has achieved independence and there is much to be done so far as our Province is concerned. We sincerely deplore his passing away

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope that you all agree that a message of condolence should be sent to the members of the bereaved family and I will request you to rise in your seats and give your assent.

(Members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. The Secretary will do the needful.

The House stands adjourned till 4 p.m. tomorrow, as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Hon'ble Kiran Sankar Roy.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned till 4 p.m. on Thursday, the 24th February, 1949, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 24th February, 1949, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 58 members.

Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. SPEAKER: In accordance with the provisions of rule 6 of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules I nominate the following members of the Assembly to form a Panel of Chairmen for the ensuing Session :—

1. Sri J. C. Gupta,
2. Janab A. F. M. Abdur Rahman,
3. Sri Radha Nath Das,
4. Mrs. E. M. Ricketts.

Unless otherwise arranged the senior member among them present in the above order will preside over the deliberations of this Assembly in my absence and in the absence of the Deputy Speaker.

GOVERNMENT BILL.

The West Bengal Secondary Education Bill, 1949.

The Hon'ble Sri Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I present this interim report of the Select Committee and request that the time be extended as described in the following motion, namely:—

"that the date for submission of the Final Report on the Select Committee on the West Bengal Secondary Education Bill, 1949, be extended till the 15th March, 1949."

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the House has no objection.

(As there was no objection the motion was carried.)

BUDGET FOR 1949-50.

Finance Minister's Statement.

(When the Hon'ble Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker rose to read his Budget statement.)

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Sir, we have not got a copy of the Budget statement.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: We have got nothing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it not the practice that only when the Hon'ble Finance Minister rises, then the Budget statement is distributed?

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Sir, it has been the custom in this House to distribute it beforehand.

(Cries of "No, never" from Treasury Benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that the blue book is distributed beforehand, but the Finance Minister's budget statement is distributed immediately when he rises.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to present the Budget Estimates of the West Bengal Government for the financial year 1949-50. I do so under a shadow of death. The most familiar and lovable figure of Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy has been snatched away by the cruel hand of death; and also our estimable colleague Sri Mohini Mohan Barman was the victim of a tragic death. In presenting the budget estimates, I feel a natural pride and thankfulness that it was given to me to present the budget of this province in the first year of the nation's freedom and to have lived to present the estimates for the next year when in all humility and truthfulness we can claim to be laying the foundation of happiness and prosperity in the province. The House will certainly realise that the task of a Finance Minister in the initial years of freedom can hardly be enviable, particularly in a province like West Bengal where, to the long-standing financial disabilities of olden times has been added the injustice done to this province in the matter of allocation of Income-tax Revenues and Jute Duty which indeed remains a sore point of grievance with us. The handicaps of the shrinkage of territory and of agricultural resources, the vast problem of refugee rehabilitation and problems inherent in a border province with extensive frontiers are also there to make up a formidable list of problems. To make his task all the more complex, he has to reconcile, for the purpose of day-to-day work and for comparatively long-term policy, the conflicts that issue from different ideological obsessions and the inability of some people to adjust ideas to changing conditions and of some others to curb impatient unpractical idealism. For my part, I must be content to be guided in my duties, as I understand them, by the cold logic of economic facts, duly warmed by broad human sympathies. While I cannot take my eyes off the present position of the finances of the province, my mental vision must stretch out into the future.

Although our direct responsibilities relate to West Bengal only and our field of activity is confined within its borders, it is alike prudent and sound to set the financial position of this province against the broader background of the economic and financial conditions of the country as a whole; for prosperity—or even poverty, for that matter—is indivisible and the main economic currents are not circumscribed by provincial boundaries. Under present-day conditions, the province reacts far more quickly than before to political and economic developments in this continent and in others. For the world is now but a small place; men, materials and ideas travel fast. Ignorance of what is going on in the vast world outside carries with it the most severe penalties. It is not, therefore, to meet a requirement of financial convention or pedantry that I now propose to preface my financial statement of revenue and expenditure with a brief review of the economic forces that operate today, particularly in India.

The past twelve months—these hectic crowded twelve months—have been a period of harrowing anxiety for the nation. The pressure of problems was oftentimes almost unbearable and the fear of breakdown was not absent from our minds. For, the National Government had to face without any prior preparation not only all the problems which their predecessors had left unsolved but also those which arose out of partition or which freedom has brought to the fore. All these came on us in a rush, while the resources, material and other, which we had at our command for solving them had suffered shrinkage or had been impaired by these very developments. Looking back in retrospect on the course of events since August, 1947, there is ground for feelings of thankfulness not untinged with pride that we have weathered so many storms and have come virtually unscathed through so many ordeals although our progress in the economic front could not keep

pace with the demands of the situation and, to our disappointment, the gap between our needs and actual performance has remained as wide as before, if not more. It is not germane to my purpose to review or recall all the experiences of the last one year and more. But if awareness of the full content of the political, economic and social set-up is a necessary ingredient of wisdom in financial policy, it is well to remember the broad divisions which the problems of our infancy as a free nation fall into. First and foremost are the problems resulting from the partition of the country, our relations with Pakistan, the position of the minorities therein, and peace within India, the problem of the refugees and their rehabilitation and the economic relations between the two Dominions. Allied to these, but at the same time distinguishable from them, is the problem of the States, particularly those of Hyderabad and Kashmir. Then there is the large number of economic problems like those of control which the National Government inherited from the old regime but which took on a rapidly changing complexion as the weeks and months rolled by. More important than all these was the need to fulfil the hopes of the masses who had been taught, and rightly so, to regard freedom as the means of their economic uplift. The contrast between these hopes and the chilling conditions of our economic situation during the last one year is not only a sad one in itself but has been the source of many an intricate problem for the Government to solve.

The experiences of last year are worth recalling in this context. Shocking and heart-breaking as it was when news of it was fresh, the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi, whose life is perennial source of inspiration, is a reminder to us all to keep on the path of service that he chalked out for us as individuals and as a nation. The year also saw the passing away of Mr. Jinnah, the chief architect of Pakistan The last British troops and the last British Governor-General left the shores of India and the first Indian Governor-General, Sri C. Rajagopalachari, whose wisdom and sagacity we had the inestimable advantage of liberally drawing upon while he was the Governor of this province, took over. The Kashmir war went through various vicissitudes and today the U. N. Kashmir Commission holds forth the promise of amicable settlement of a complex problem. The war of nerves in Hyderabad came to an end by the rapid police action of the Government of India and the Razakar menace finally scotched, without causing even a mild tremor in the Indian Continent. The integration of Indian States, one by one, with the Government of India, had redrawn the map of India in an incredibly short time. Despite frequent set-backs of a critical kind the Inter-Dominion relations between India and Pakistan have on the whole progressed on the lines of mutual understanding and cordiality. Whenever the relation deteriorated, refugees streamed in from East Bengal to West Bengal and trouble-makers and smugglers became active near the border. The Standstill Agreement between the two Dominions was terminated on the 29th February, 1948. This led to great confusion and dislocation. Jute was subjected to a high rate of export duty by Pakistan and this created some diffidence in the minds of many on this side of the frontier regarding the future of the jute industry. The Inter-Dominion Conference held in April in Calcutta improved the relation appreciably. International Baggage Rules came to be observed by both the Dominions; activities of trouble-makers and smugglers near the frontier were checked; the flow of refugees from East Bengal to West Bengal diminished simultaneously. In August and September refugees from East Bengal streamed in large numbers and this Government was faced with an embarrassing problem. Gradually the position improved. The Inter-Dominion Conference held in Delhi in December last restored good relations between the two Dominions once more.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to us that within such a short time of our achievement of independence, our prestige and position in the

international sphere have risen very high and India now occupies a very important place in the international forum, thanks to the personality, sagacity and far-sightedness of India's illustrious Prime Minister.

The political background of our economic life has thus slowly and steadily brightened during the last year though at times clouds hung ominously over our heads. With the States brought into organic relation with the Indian Union, with Inter-Dominion relations progressing to a more and more rational basis of mutual understanding, with civil peace well established through steadfast adherence to the ideal of a secular State, the country has reached a stage in which the economic problems of the people can be patiently grappled with. It is untortunately not yet possible to say more. For the basic problems are still as grim as a year before, though optimism has now surer ground to stand on. These basic problems may be distinguished into two broad groups: the first referring to the objective conditions necessary for progress of productive activity and the second to the personal factors of relations between the important elements in the economic organisation.

Taking first the objective conditions, the general economic situation in the country, viewed as a whole, continued to be disquieting, despite a few green patches here and there. It was indeed not a little disappointing that in the third full year after the cessation of hostilities, hopes of an immediate post-war improvement in the living standards for the common people could not be realised in any appreciable manner. The continued fall of industrial and agricultural output in this country in the face of an increased price stimulus and a large unsatisfied demand offers a problem in production and possibly also in human psychology worthy of the most serious notice by statesmen and economists. Wherever the ultimate solutions may be deemed to lie, all our talks about combating inflation and raising the standard of living of the common man have to be assessed in terms of our real achievement in the field of production where, indeed, our performances make a poor show. We must be on our guard against premature satisfaction with slight or transitory improvements here and there when what matters is a stable and all-round progress.

It would be a dangerous illusion to seek any consolation from the thought that production in some lines was higher in 1948 than in the previous year For one thing, production in most branches reached its nadir in the latter year. Secondly, even where production increased, it was still in some cases not only much below the peak figure attained during the war, but even below the pre-war figure. In 1948 our production fell below pre-war levels in such important sectors as food, cereals, cement and jute. While this is a serious matter in itself, it becomes far more so in the context of the needs of an increasing population whose normal growth during the intervening period must have been anything between 10 and 15 per cent. When we consider our production in the perspective of our needs as well as the installed capacity in each industry, we shall be in a position to appreciate better the leeway that has to be made up. Thus, in the steel industry production last year amounted to 854 thousand tons, which was roughly equal to two-thirds of our installed capacity of 1,264 thousand tons, and one-third of our present requirements of about 2,500 thousand tons a year. Again, the potential capacity of the cement industry is about 22 lakh tons against which actual production last year amounted to only 15·76 lakh tons, i.e., only about two-thirds of capacity. Before the war, imports supplemented internal production, where necessary, but now either they are not available when they are most wanted, or the price at which they can be obtained is too high for us, and even where they are available, we cannot buy them because of shortage of our foreign exchange resources which are mostly utilised for import of food. Internal production has, therefore, to play today a much larger part in our economic development and rehabilitation. But on the basis of the facts, I have just narrated, one would be bold to say that the part is being played as it should be.

Labour must have its due. The Government have already set up machinery with a view to securing justice for labour. One of the reasons why industrial disputes are showing decreasing trend is because this machinery is now functioning in different provinces. Last year there was satisfactory decrease in the number of industrial disputes and in man-days lost. The total number of man-days lost to industry through disputes from January to September, 1948, was 6·9 millions as compared with 14·7 millions in the corresponding period of the previous year, thus representing about 50 per cent. reduction in time lost to production. While this is good so far as it goes, one fails to notice any appreciable effect of this upon output, for which, I think, at least a partial explanation lies in the fact that productivity of labour per man-hour declined as it has perhaps been declining for the last ten years. A few examples will be instructive. Total employment in coal mining industry increased between 1939 and 1947 by 120 thousand to 322 thousand, i.e., by nearly 60 per cent. but total output of coal increased from 278 lakh tons to 297 lakh tons, that is, by about 6 per cent. only and output per labourer fell from 140 tons to nearly 100 tons, thus representing a decline of about 30 per cent. Employment in the textile industry (cotton and jute) has increased since 1939 by nearly 20 per cent. but total output has increased by less than 4 per cent. Reports from other industries tell a similar tale.

Sir, may I ask for your permission to allow my colleague Mr. B. C. Sinha to complete the speech.

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, may I have the permission of the House to read out the rest of the speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right.

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I yield to none in the desire to improve the standard of life of the working classes and secure their contentment. But improvement in the standard of living is ultimately impossible without any increase in national income however distributed. In the context of a declining or stationary production trent, prices must tend to rise.

Prices, in fact, rose with a vengeance during the last year but the extent to which the production factor is responsible for the rise is a matter of controversy. But there can be no doubt that its effect on prices was accentuated by the policy of decontrol which was initiated at the end of 1947. It was expected that decontrol of the two most important consumer goods of interest to the common man, viz., food and cotton textiles, would rapidly increase supply and thus sooner or later reduce the price-level both by bringing out hoards into the open and by increasing production through the stimulus of an initially higher price. Both these expectations were to a large extent falsified.

In fact, Government themselves were never very confident of the success of the decontrol policy which they had launched, evidently to give business-men, agriculturists and traders a chance to bring about an improvement in the situation by placing all their stocks in the open market. They were also influenced by the powerful advocacy of Mahatma Gandhi who believed in the efficacy of the normal channels of trade. But in view of the obvious shortage of the most important articles of consumption, a policy of decontrol was foredoomed to failure. It is to the lasting regret of the country that no section of the people seemed to have played their part well. About the middle of the year, Government announced a reversal of their decontrol policy. In this background, prices were rising steadily from month to month, and after a short break in March, the wholesale price index for food reached the record high figure of 397·7 in August as compared with 347·7 at the beginning of the year. The general index had already reached its highest point in July at 389·6 as against 329·2 in January. During the next

three months, the trend of prices was somewhat downward, but there was again a rise in November and December when the food index rose to 397·5, nearly as high as in August, and the general index to 383·6 which was the highest point since August. For the year as a whole the food index was 374·7 and the general index was 367·7 as compared with 292·2 and 297·4 respectively in 1947. The index number of working class cost of living rose correspondingly from 258 to 308 in Bombay and from 315 to 360 in Calcutta between January and September.

The rise in the food index in 1948 by 82·5 points and in the general index by about 70·3 points as compared with 1947 cannot be explained, as already stated, by the production factor alone. Monetary factors also played their part in the rise. The fact that there was no net increase in money supply—or at least an appreciable increase—during the year is no proof that there was no element of inflation. For the increase in money supply that had gone on uninterrupted ever since the outbreak of the war is capable of exerting its full effect even after the cessation of fresh additions to the circulation.

The inflationary situation in the country of which the rise in prices is adequate proof came to be reviewed at expert level in the middle of the year. The House, I am sure, is aware of the broad outlines of the Government policy in this regard which fall into two main categories, viz., (*i*) those intended to check additions to purchasing power which are not immediately productive of increase in the output of goods and to mop up existing surplus purchasing power in the hands of the public, and (*ii*) those intended to increase the volume of essential goods and services. As regards the first objective, both Central and Provincial Governments agreed to reduce their expenditure with a view to balancing their budgets during the current year and also to produce a balanced budget, if not to budget for surpluses in the next financial year. All development plans were to be reviewed with a view to determining the relative priority of accepted schemes and all expenditure upon unproductive schemes was to be abandoned. Limitation of dividends and similar measures were intended to check fresh additions to purchasing power in the hands of the public. To encourage increased production of essential goods and services, certain concessions to industry were offered, chief among which were a liberalisation of the rules regarding the allowance for income-tax purposes; exemption of new industrial undertakings from income-tax for a specified period, and grant of relief in customs duty in respect of imports of essential raw materials and capital goods.

It must be remembered that, while low levels of production have persisted more or less throughout the year, and the inflationary phenomena are of even longer standing, the measures to cure the inflationary evil either by restricting purchasing power or offering fresh incentives to production have been of comparatively recent origin. The economic situation as it obtains in the country today has to be viewed from all the different angles suggested by the inflationary problem, the problem of shortages of capital goods or of raw material and the problem of inducing a better and more co-operative attitude on the part of capital and labour. So far as the inflationary aspect of the problem is concerned, it is well to remember the danger which Dr. Mathai stressed a few days ago that in steering clear of the mountain of inflation, we may run the risk of falling into the chasm of deflation. While there is everything to be said for avoiding additions to purchasing power which have no corresponding additions to output of goods, there is danger in restricting developmental expenditure merely for fear of adding to inflation. For the fight against inflation is fought and won ultimately on the production front. Whatever we may do on the monetary side, there will be no cure for inflation unless production is increased.

If increase in production is our paramount need and objective, then the question of attaining it through ensuring better conditions has the highest priority. From this point of view, the wisdom of Government policy and

the attitude of capital and labour, and the buoyancy of business conditions are far more important than the avoidance of deficits or the creation of surpluses. What is most disquieting today, therefore, is absence of buoyancy in business conditions or optimism in business outlook.

The set-back to business confidence originated in the fateful Budget of March, 1947, of Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan. Although some relief has since been granted, the main pattern of the tax structure introduced by him remains. Some confusion and uncertainty still prevail, with the result that private enterprise remain somewhat hesitant and diffident in proceeding with its plans of development and expansion. This is reflected in the virtual absence of any net increase in investment in industry since the end of the war. Consents to new capital issues which amounted to Rs. 35·61 crores in the first quarter of 1948, fell to Rs. 33·58 crores in the second quarter, and further to Rs. 20·42 crores in the third. It is noteworthy that figures relating to consents to new capital issues have been steadily coming down and public participation in these new industrial undertakings has been still less since the end of the war and the much expected rapid industrialisation of the country, involving a capital expenditure of Rs. 400—Rs. 500 crores a year, remains a distant dream. In the post-war period, England is devoting 20 per cent. of her national dividend to the creation of new capital. In the Four-Year Plan of France under the European Recovery Programme, the provision made in this respect amounts to 25 per cent. In India, on the other hand, not more than 3 to 4 per cent. of the total national income goes to capital formation in a normal year. While savings in a poor country like ours are in themselves small, incentives for savings have been further curtailed by abnormally high rates of income-tax, and official distavour of profit through actual or contemplated measures such as limitation of dividend, profit-sharing, etc. The upper income-brackets, which provide the main source of equity capital in every country, are subjected in this country to very high rates of income-tax. A further factor in the fall of savings in recent years has been a redistribution of income in favour of the agricultural and working classes, an event in itself welcome, but not immediately conducive to the growth of capital; for, the habit of savings among these groups has been notoriously weak. While the process of redistribution in itself should be uninterrupted, its restrictive effect upon capital formation has to be offset by suitable measures. The industrial policy of the Government of India announced in April last, while clearing the position in many respects, did not altogether eliminate the uncertainties from the minds of businessmen as it left open the question of nationalisation of important industries at the end of ten years. The borrowing programme of the Government of India, under the circumstances, was still lagging far behind its target at the end of December last.

The scarcity of indigenous capital and the virtual absence of capital goods industries in this country have naturally directed the attention of many of us to the possibilities of obtaining foreign capital; and some people even think that absence of indigenous capital may not be much of a handicap if all our development plans can be carried out with the help of foreign capital. In a developing economy like ours, and specially in view of the paucity of risk capital from internal sources, we have no doubt to depend on foreign capital to a large extent for our development and rehabilitation programme. But this should not make us neglectful of the vital necessity of developing indigenous capital resources. For, even when foreign capital, which must largely mean foreign capital goods and foreign skill, has been obtained to execute any plan, a considerable amount of expenditure has still to be incurred in rupees, on labour, building and so forth, for which we have to depend upon our own internal resources. We have to borrow from outside not only because of the absence of internal capital goods, but because we have not the requisite foreign exchange resources to buy capital goods from abroad even when we have the rupee. When we borrow from abroad, we

have to make provision for annual interest payment and return of principal, for which it is necessary that we immediately set ourselves to increasing our balance of trade, both by increasing exports and by cutting down imports by increasing internal production, such as, food cereals.

While most people would agree today, on practical considerations, on the necessity of importing foreign capital, our ideas on the sources of foreign capital are far from being clear-cut and realistic. Not a few seem to think that all the foreign capital we need can be supplied by such sources as the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank. In the first place, it is well to remember that the loans from the International Monetary Fund are not available for long-term projects of capital development, but only for meeting current deficits in the balance of payments, and secondly, these loans are subject to an upper limit, and the loans we have already taken from the Fund do not leave much balance for reaching that limit. Loans from the International Bank are, no doubt, available for purposes of long-term development, and in my opinion we should take advantage of these loans whenever available. Such loans would enhance our international credit, and make other foreign creditors all the more ready to lend to us. But there are many demands on such loans besides ours, and in my opinion, such loans, where available, should be reserved for selected Government-sponsored or big schemes That would obviously leave a great field of economic development for which loans from the International Bank cannot be obtained but for which foreign capital would still be necessary. If I may be permitted to offer a personal suggestion, to finance such projects, we may quite properly turn to the foreign private industry itself which would help our economic development on terms of capital participation in home industries, subject, of course, to the knowledge and approval of the Union Government but on terms, as would make it worthwhile and attractive for foreign industrialists to invest their capital and bring their enterprise here while not going against the interest of this country. In some ways, participation of foreign industrialists in home industries would be more fruitful of results than loans from the International Bank; for, with foreign enterprise we shall get the requisite "know-how" which the former type of loans may not carry with them at all, or to the extent required in most cases. For us, at the present stage of our industrial development, the "know-how" of things in industrial sector is not, at any rate, less important than capital in many cases. Without depending too much on the help and resources of the highly developed countries, such as, U. K. and U. S. A. in the matter of capital participation, we may, with advantage, seek the assistance and co-operation of private industries of other countries also which are in a position to help our capital development. This may have the additional advantage of reducing our dependence on any particular country. There has been hardly one instance of economic development of a backward country in the past without the assistance, large or small, of foreign capital Even America, in the first stage of her economic development, was assisted by British capital and nobody would suggest that American economy is dominated by British capitalists. There might be some truth rather in a statement of the opposite kind. It all depends upon how strong is the Government of the country which imports foreign capital. We have here a strong centralised type of Government based upon democratic principles, and, therefore, subject at any moment to being pulled up and set in the right direction, by popular will. Under such circumstances, there is no reason to be unduly apprehensive of the evils of foreign capital such as might manifest themselves in a country whose Government is weak and largely preoccupied with forces of internal disorder.

Nearly the same factors that dried up the sources of investment capital played havoc with prices in the stock and share markets which experienced the worst year since the boom of 1945-46. During the twelve months ended December, 1948, the index number of variable-yield industrial securities

(1927-28 = 100) fell by 34·3 points to 157·9; fixed-yield securities fell by 13·9 points to 155·9 and Government securities fell by 2·3 points to 114·8. It has been recently estimated that the market values of ordinary shares of 747 companies listed in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras Stock Exchanges declined between July, 1946, and October, 1948, by Rs. 357·14 crores from Rs. 692·69 crores to 335·55 crores, that is, by nearly 52 per cent. Of course, this does not necessarily represent a net loss to the investors; for, there must have been many persons in October, 1948, who had bought their shares earlier than July, 1946, when prices were lower, and therefore it would be a mistake to calculate loss to the investing class, as is sometimes done, simply on the basis of a difference between the top prices in July, 1946, and bottom prices in October, 1948. Still, the fact of the depreciation of the capital values of the shares by over 50 per cent. in course of two years (and there has been further depreciation since) is a development of momentous significance and its adverse effect on the psychology of the investing public, the volume of transactions and transferability of shares cannot be doubted. The Calcutta Stock Exchange in the middle of the year enforced minimum prices for certain classes of speculative counters, but it is well known that considerable business was done in many of them even below the minimum prices through Bombay. Although some recovery has been noticeable in the last few months, return to normalcy is still a long way off. Nor can such a return be possible except on the basis of a changed economic outlook which gives the highest priority to the production of new wealth. In the last analysis, industrial output and stock exchange turnover are governed by the same psychological and technical conditions.

Behind much of the current criticisms of stock markets and alleged high dividends on shares of companies, there is, perhaps, a lurking reformist zeal to promote distributive justice. Many people seem to believe that profit is a form of unearned income, and an arbitrary interference with it has no adverse effect upon the economic health of the nation. This is indeed a facile illusion. A proper return on capital is as necessary for capital formation as wages are for the supply of efficient service. Capital is formed through saving, but savings do not automatically transform themselves into capital. Money may be saved but still there may be no formation of capital if it is simply hoarded or kept idle in current accounts in banks. Current deposits in banks can at best provide some working capital to industries but not longterm risk capital. For industrial development it is absolutely necessary that people should invest directly in business. Unless the net return on securities is well above that obtainable on gilt-edged securities and savings bank deposits which involve no risk of loss of capital, savings will not be canalised into productive channels. Those who invest their savings in shares of industrial companies also render an important service to the community by supplying the necessary risk capital for industrial development, and they should not be denied their due share of reward.

The main reason why the stock market continues to languish, showing no sign of an early revival, is psychological; for, dividend earning of companies judging from the results of 1947-48 has not yet declined. It is only suspicion of the future and a general sense of economic instability that is keeping the forces of revival from asserting themselves. What is wanted today is a positive outlook of action which can come only from a genuine sense of confidence in the economic future of the country. A healthy stock market, to which savings can freely flow, and which allows ready opportunity to anybody who likes to realise his investments for other urgent purposes, is an important mechanism for canalising private savings to productive purposes; for, without such a mechanism nobody would be prepared to invest in shares and thus there can hardly be any company promotion for producing new wealth. Whoever be at fault for having brought about the present stalemate in the capital market, all should now combine to resuscitate

its dead waters, and set free the streams of business activity that now lie frozen under an icy load of suspicion and distrust. The contribution that the Government can make in the revival of capital market is not the least part of the total task of rehabilitation of faith. Private enterprise is confronted with a facile challenge that it is perhaps playing an unwanted role in the economy of the country. If this misapprehension is removed and the present psychology of inaction is allowed to be overcome by a psychology of confidence, I think we may turn the corner of the present stalemate in business activities to the relief of all concerned. In this the Government have also a contribution to make by providing for reasonable tax relief—even a token tax relief—by way of a gesture of encouragement which alone can cleanse the air of much suspicion and uncertainty. I also feel that in the present phase of our national development, the investors and entrepreneurs as a class should not be too much susceptible to the psychology of fear, and they, on their part, should come forward to play their part with courage and conviction to help in the revival of confidence in the economic sphere.

The time has come when businessmen as a class in this country should realise their new obligations under the changed set-up of things. Whether the current prejudice against businessmen is justified or not or whether there is any substance in the prevailing feeling that they are feeding on the fat of the country, it must be said that they are now under a cloud of suspicion. It is for them, by their own conduct, to clear up their position and rehabilitate themselves in public estimation. We are living in fast-moving times and social conscience instinctively reacts against sharp inequalities of any kind. The age of large profits has definitely gone and businessmen must make up their minds to share in a more equitable distribution of wealth with the general run of people and make their fullest contribution to the progress and prosperity of the country along with others. They should read the writings on the wall in time; otherwise the prevailing suspicion and prejudice may in future cut the ground off their feet. They should not do anything which may tend to hurt social conscience and give the impression that whatever may be the condition of the country, they are out to pile up their profits at the cost of the nation—an impression which will spell their own undoing. A new world growing out of the old needs a new outlook and sooner this outlook is developed by the more fortunate section of the people, the quicker will be the process of a happy re-adjustment between different interests.

In the industrial development that has so far been achieved in this country, private enterprise has fulfilled a creditable role and its contribution has been considerable. Government also seem to be realising, as is apparent from their recent policy, that private enterprise should be given the encouragement it needs if the present stalemate is to be ended. When thus the situation is growing propitious, it is for businessmen to shed their hesitancy and come forward, with optimism, to play their part.

It is one of the points of attack against businessmen and the richer class that they usually dominate joint-stock enterprise in this country and fatten by large dividends at the cost of the poorer section. This, I may point out, is an erroneous impression and any factual investigation would, I think, go to show not only that the bulk of the share-holders in the country as a whole are small and middle-class men but also that their share in the total capital liability of the companies is predominant. It is impossible to float and run big companies with the money that can be provided by the rich few. Moreover, the notion about dividends being excessive is rather mistaken. In some year or years, and in the case of some company or companies, dividends may appear to be high. But if we take a long view of dividends, say, over a period of 15 or 20 years, we shall, I think, find that the average dividend has not been on the whole higher than 6 per cent. or so. The share-holders have also to pay income-tax sometimes on the

dividends they receive and further, the rate of the dividend, which sticks in popular imagination, is the rate with reference to the face value of the *shares, while the net dividend which is really retained by the share-holders, judged with reference to the market price at which the shares were bought* by them, is even more modest. Moreover, if I may offer a personal opinion, much of the dividend earned by the share-holders is re-invested in business. This is at least the experience in U. S. A. where it has been found that dividends distributed among share-holders go more to further production than even reserves of the companies. Opinions on all these matters have till now been expressed by different persons and interests in a superficial manner without the necessary background of factual data with the result that actual investigations sometimes yield altogether a different conclusion from what was intended to establish. I very strongly feel that the whole range of these economic matters should be investigated by the Government on expert level and data should be collected to ascertain as to what should be fair wages in terms of productivity, what is the average dividend earnings of joint-stock companies; what income-group or groups constitute the share-holding community; what is the ratio of holdings of the management; how the profits accrued from dividends are usually utilised and if they are ploughed back to industries and such other matters of this nature. It is only when we are in possession of all these data and statistical materials that we can expect to have a complete picture of the economic position. Such an investigation can only be taken up by the Government of India and I am sure, this may yield revealing material for us upon which it may be easier for us to formulate our economic policy. Mere appointment of committees, even consisting of representatives of all the interests, will avail but little unless backed by all relevant factual and statistical data. I may add that economic matters are interdependent and one problem is connected with another so that no aspect of any question can be dealt with singly or in isolation. It is therefore of the utmost importance that in all these matters available data and statistical information should be as complete as possible.

To grudge capital reasonable rewards and incentives in the present state of our economic life and organisation tends not only to prejudice the prospects of orderly development, but also to cause the kind of setback which may be a grave threat to social and political stability. I do not overlook for a moment the difficulty of securing harmony of policies and objectives at a time of political changes like the present. Sympathy with the poor, a passion for economic uplift and a sense of loathing for grave inequalities—all are natural and noble emotions. But the demands which the practical tasks of securing economic development and progress make on us have to be heeded at the same time. If what we want is an increase in the standard of living—and such an increase is impossible without new development and an increase in production—the requirements of such new development cannot be overlooked. In fact, however, the tendency in recent times seems to be to deny the incentives and rewards of capital and enterprise and to embark on measures which are beneficial to labour only in the most superficial view. Higher real wages can ultimately come only from increased production. But when higher prices are followed by lower production, not only is there no progress but a setback is caused by the inflationary rise in prices exceeding the rise in wage rates. In practically the whole of the private sector wages have thus lagged behind the cost of living index.

In adopting measures to improve the lot of workers, we should be careful to bear in mind the essential interdependence of economic factors. It is of interest, therefore, to note the reactions of the various concessions to industrial labour on agriculture and agricultural labour. Agricultural labour being seasonal in this country, agricultural labourers flock into industry in the slack season, but in view of the superior amenities now

available in industries, they sometimes betray a desire to stick to their new avocation. For example in the coal industry, the increase in daily number employed since 1939 has been 60 per cent. against which production has increased by only 6 per cent. This emphasises not only the difficulty of isolating any one section of the working classes for special treatment but also the dangerous trend towards slackness in industrial labour and the failure of labour to respond to higher wages with better work. The coal industry is by no means alone in reporting such slackness and failure. Iron and steel and cotton textiles have a similar tale. And the danger of the working classes regarding the nation's economic problem as a distributive problem to be decided by vote cannot be exaggerated. It is to be realised that the society is big enough for everybody to grow. What is to be guarded against is that no section is denied its legitimate due and no section can exploit the other for its interest. Economic factors, as I have said, are so interdependent that no section can hope to grow without the help of the other in complete isolation. The agriculturist cannot thrive unless his products are marketed by traders and shippers and utilised by the manufacturers. On the other hand, businessmen also cannot thrive unless they can utilise the fruits of the labour of the agriculturists and labourers. Likewise every section in economic life depends on the other for its own sustenance. In such a condition one can only think in terms of his own particular interest at his peril. It should be the task of any enlightened government to ensure that the different units in economic life live and grow in perfect symmetry without one being exploited by the other. Overemphasis on the particular interest of any section may tend to disturb the equilibrium of our growth and development.

We are backward in almost everything, and everything, therefore, demands our attention. But we can only do a few things at a time, particularly in view of our limited capacity and resources. By attempting to do more than we can manage, we shall only waste energy, retard progress and step on the spiral of inflation. A sense of priority is essential if our progress is to be orderly and steady. Immediately productive schemes must be assigned the first order of priority in our march towards progress, and our first concern should be the problems of food, cloth and housing. It is only with the increase of production that our capacity to take up more and more will increase. Secondly, having regard to the scarcity of men and material we must, as far as practicable, start work only when investigations in all aspects are complete, the full scheme in all its detail is ready and the data give a clear indication that the object of the scheme is justified by the results expected. In the past we have often started with incomplete plans drawn upon inadequate data. As a result we have often had to retrace our steps and there has been waste of valuable resources in men, material and money. It is essential that we make up our mind before starting work, and that our schemes and plans are scrutinised having regard not only to the financial results but also to the correct order of priority and with a view to avoid wasteful employment of men and materials. Men must be appointed with clear-cut duties so that they know what to do and can do what they should. A leap in the dark should be avoided as far as possible. When we have grown richer we might be able to afford leaps in the dark but not now. Any lopsided scheme or half-hearted measure, if implemented with unthinking zeal, may cause waste which we can hardly afford in the existing condition of things.

I shall now explain, very briefly, the Revised Estimates for the current year ending March 31, 1949, as introductory to the Budget Estimates for the year 1949-50.

The Revised Estimates bear the strongest impress of the economic developments during the year.

The Budget Estimates for the current year included a receipt of 657 lakhs on account of Development Grant from the Centre. The amount was equal to the estimated expenditure on unproductive Development schemes during the year.

In 1945 the provinces were informed by the Government of India that they could draw up plans of development on the assumption that in the five-year period beginning with 1947-48 they would receive by way of Central grants assistance of the order of 250 crores, being one-half of the estimated Central surplus of 500 crores during the period. The amount was provisionally allocated among the provinces in the ratio of population but weightage was given to the backward provinces of Assam, North-West Frontier Province and Orissa, and also to Bengal which together with Assam had been affected by the impact of the War. The weightage was limited to one-third of the share admissible on the basis of population. With this weightage, the Centre's promised contribution to the provinces in the five years rose to 273·88 crores, and the amount promised to undivided Bengal in five years was 69 crores. The Government of India promised further to make available to the provinces advance payments during the years 1945-46 and 1946-47, the amounts being subsequently adjusted against the scheme of grants for post-war development as a whole. The Government of undivided Bengal accordingly drew up a five-year plan and started work on it, from the beginning of the year 1946-47. Grants amounting to 487 lakhs and 100 lakhs were made available by the Centre to cover the full expenditure incurred respectively by the Government of undivided Bengal and the Government of West Bengal during the years 1946-47 and 1947-48. A provision for receipt of a grant of 6 crores 57 lakhs from the Centre was made in the Budget Estimate for the current year on the assumption that there would be no deviation from the previous practice in this respect and that a grant equal to the actual expenditure would be made available to this Government. In May, 1948, the Government of India informed the Government of West Bengal that the Development grant to this province during the year 1948-49 would be limited to 50 per cent. of the actual expenditure on unproductive Development schemes approved by the Government of India subject to a ceiling of 3 crores. Further, the grant was to cover the Grow More Food and certain training schemes approved by the Government of India for which money was so long being made available to the provinces separately. The Government of West Bengal represented to the Government of India that the financial position of West Bengal made it impossible for it to comply with the condition of finding half the expenditure on unproductive Development schemes from its own revenues. The question was discussed at the Provincial Finance Ministers' Conference in October last. By that time there was intensification in the inflationary situation in the country, and the Government of India was searching for possible cuts in its programme of expenditure in order that it could balance its budget as an anti-inflationary measure. Shortly afterwards the Government of West Bengal was informed by the Government of India that in the case of West Bengal the Development grant during the current year would not be limited to 50 per cent. of the actual expenditure on unproductive Development schemes but would be subject to a ceiling of 170 lakhs only. An additional grant of 30 lakhs was promised on Grow More Food schemes but this was conditional on spending the usual proportion of the total expenditure on these schemes from the provincial revenues, the proportion being in most cases 50 per cent. A further representation from the Government of West Bengal for an increased grant produced no result. Under the head "Development Grant" alone there has thus been a drop of 4 crores and 87 lakhs in our revenue receipts. In this connection I may state for the information of the House that the Government of India now propose to distribute during the four years or more from 1948-49, 203·78 crores only as Development grant to the provinces of the Indian Union and 23 crores only out of the amount to West Bengal.

We have suffered from some drops in other spheres also. Stamp Revenue has dropped by 20 lakhs and Registration by 2 lakhs mainly due to restrictions imposed by the Government of India on the registration of documents under the Transfer of Property (India) Ordinance, 1948, which was promulgated with a view to stop evasion of income-tax. Besides, Provincial Excise has dropped by 7 lakhs and Land Revenue by 5 lakhs.

These drops together with the drop of 4 crores and 87 lakhs under Development grant caused serious gaps in our revenue receipts. We have accordingly had to strive hard to balance our budget, as far as possible. Having regard to the anti-inflationary programme adopted by the Government of India and accepted by this Government, we could not leave any wide margin between our revenue receipts and revenue expenditure.

We effected a net improvement of 2 crores and 12 lakhs under Other Taxes and Duties. Out of this, the improvement in receipts under Bengal (Finance) Sales Tax Act alone is 1 crore and 30 lakhs. This is due partly to better administration and partly to better supply position of some consumer goods in the market, particularly during the beginning of the year. Receipts under Raw Jute Tax improved by 28 lakhs, Electricity Duty by 22 lakhs, Entertainments Tax by 15 lakhs and Motor Spirit Sales Tax by 15 lakhs. There was also an improvement of 17 lakhs under Forest.

Our shares in the Centrally-levied taxes improved considerably. Receipts under Income-tax improved by 1 crore and 41 lakhs, and Jute Export Duty by 28 lakhs. Besides, we receive 42 lakhs under Income-tax on account of the pre-partition period from 1st April, 1947, to 14th August, 1947.

By these improvements in the different fields we have been successful in covering almost the entire drop, though large, so that the net drop in revenue receipts is only of the order of 60 lakhs.

Coming to the expenditure side, the Revised Estimate on unproductive Development schemes is 3 crores and 32 lakhs. As we expect a grant of 1 crore 70 lakhs only from the Centre we have to find 1 crore 62 lakhs from the provincial revenues to be spent on these schemes. The release from the condition of limitation of the grant to 50 per cent. of actual expenditure has not thus been of much advantage to us. The net drop under this head is 3 crores and 25 lakhs and has been partially offset by increased expenditure on other items. The largest increase is under Extraordinary Charges in India amounting to 1 crore 10 lakhs. This mainly represents losses in the trading accounts of the Civil Supplies Department which are mainly due to differences between the buying and selling prices of wheat and wheat products. These losses will disappear during the next year. Under Police also there is an increase of 34 lakhs.

With a view to help the Government of East Bengal in clearing quickly the pre-partition dues of the creditors of undivided Bengal, who had waited long, the Government of West Bengal had agreed to pay currently to the Government of East Bengal 35 lakhs for every crore paid out on this account by the Government of East Bengal. At the last Inter-Dominion Conference in Delhi the representatives of the Government of East Bengal agreed to accept a time-limit of four months for the payment of these pre-partition liabilities in respect of bills pending before the Application Committee. The bills amount to about 9 crores. If the full amount was found payable and was paid by East Bengal, West Bengal would have to pay about 3 crores to the Government of East Bengal. A new provision of 1 crore only has been made in the Revised Estimates for this purpose.

There is a new provision in the Revised Estimates under the head "Allowance and gratuities to political sufferers, their families and institutions". The head itself is new and has been opened in redemption of the promise I made last year that a scheme for assistance to political sufferers

would be put into effect during the year. The service rendered by them to the country is invaluable and what little we can give to alleviate their suffering is a mere token of the affection which the country feels for them. A printed booklet has been circulated to the Honourable Members to indicate the nature and progress of the scheme.

On the whole, our revenue receipts have dropped by 60 lakhs and our revenue expenditure has dropped by 115 lakhs. The net result is, therefore, a reduction of the deficit from 78 lakhs to 23 lakhs. But for the provision of 1 crore for payment to East Bengal on account of pre-partition liabilities, the net result would have been a surplus of 77 lakhs.

The year 1949-50.

The Budget Estimates of revenue receipts show an improvement of 1 crore and 24 lakhs over the Revised; the Budget Estimates of revenue expenditure show an increase of 2 crores and 12 lakhs over the Revised. The deficit, therefore, increases to 1 crore and 11 lakhs.

The improvement in revenue receipts is due mainly to the following items; the Development Grant promised by the Centre next year is 2 crores 40 lakhs, i.e., 70 lakhs more than what has been promised during the current year; Jute duty and income-tax recoverable from the Centre show a drop of 22 lakhs in the aggregate, but there is an increase of 16 lakhs under Provincial Excise; 8 lakhs under Other Taxes and Duties; 2 lakhs under Interest; 3 lakhs under Police; 3 lakhs under Medical; 6 lakhs under Transport; and 32 lakhs under Civil Works. Six lakhs under Transport represents the excess of recurring receipts over recurring expenditure of the Calcutta State Transport Service, without providing for depreciation and insurance. The improvement under Civil Works is due partly to higher receipts from the Central Road Fund and partly to the transfer of 15 lakhs from a Capital head to a Revenue head. The Civil Supplies Department makes a levy of 1½ annas on the sale of each maund of internally procured rice with a view to spending the money on improvement of village roads. The amount transferred from the Capital head to the Revenue head represents the sum so collected in the Civil Supplies Department during the current year.

The largest increase in expenditure is under Development schemes. The total provision for Development schemes is 4 crores and 82 lakhs as against 3 crores and 32 lakhs in the Revised. It will be observed that in the Revised Estimates the expenditure on unproductive Development schemes has been booked under the head "63-B—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes", but there is no provision under that head during the next year. In the next year according to a new accounts classification made by the Auditor-General of India the amounts have been shown under the appropriate major heads instead of being shown together under 63-B. The provisions under the appropriate heads, viz., Education, Medical, Public Health, Agriculture, etc., have, therefore, increased to the extent of the transfer.

The problem created by the inrush of refugees from across the border has been a source of considerable worry and anxiety to the Government. At a certain stage the problem assumed a menacing proportion and the Provincial Government, with their scanty resources, found it well-nigh impossible to deal with it effectively and in a manner satisfactory to themselves. However, the problem of refugees has been accepted as a national problem by the highest in the land and the Government, both here and at the Centre, have clearly indicated their readiness to accept full responsibility for rehabilitation of refugees. Despite their very limited financial resources, the Government of West Bengal have made provisions in the Budget for the rehabilitation of the refugees which will be recoverable from the Centre. I must confess that the West Bengal Government was so much taken unawares by the sudden impact of the inrush of refugees that in the initial stage they found themselves somewhat unprepared to deal with the problem

effectively. I can assure the House that the matter is now well in hand, and everything possible is being done to help these people to find their feet in life in their new homes under new surroundings. While the Government will do, as they must, all that they possibly can to help them, I must state that the public and the refugees themselves have a part—and a very vital part—to play in the matter of their rehabilitation. A happy solution of the problem can come only from the co-ordinated efforts of the public, the refugees and the Government. To me it appears that for the refugees, to the personal tragedy of being uprooted, has been added the exclusion from the normal economic and social life of the community in which they find themselves. A great many lack places to live in, places to work in. They have become a dead-weight on the weakened economy of the province. It is clear that an essential step in their recovery must be the relocation and rehabilitation of these uprooted people so that they will at least produce as much as they consume, and, having produced wealth, share it with the people of West Bengal. They should not consider themselves as a class apart, as distinct from the people with whom they join, but as an integral part of the whole community, producing as much and sharing as much with them. A small province like West Bengal can hardly hope to render succour to a vast multitude of humanity unless more wealth is produced by the joint efforts of all. I hope and trust, the refugees themselves will realise the need of such efforts and contribute to the welfare and prosperity of the province.

We have provided for an expenditure of 2 crores and 21 lakhs during the current year and 4 crores and 28 lakhs during the next for the refugees. We have also provided for recovery from the Government of India of almost equal amounts. Similarly, for loans and advances to refugees we have provided for 1 crore and 16 lakhs in the current year and 4 crores and 86 lakhs in the next. Provision has been made for loans of equivalent amounts from the Government of India. Besides, a provision of 11 lakhs in the current year and one crore and 13 lakhs in the next has been made for the purpose of building houses for the refugees. Loans equivalent to these amounts will also be obtained from the Government of India. Our position will worsen immediately to the extent, if any, to which the expected recovery may not be forthcoming. Further, in the case of loans granted to refugees, it is not yet clear how much of it will ultimately prove to be bad debt and what share of the loss on that account will ultimately be borne by the Government of India. The actual share of losses to be borne by the Government of India is now under correspondence.

There have been circulated to Honourable Members two printed booklets entitled, (1) The West Bengal Provincial Rupee: from where it comes and where it goes, and (2) Statement showing the progress of development schemes and the new schemes outside the development programme included in the Revised Estimates for 1948-49 and the Budget Estimates for 1949-50. The booklets will show the relative importance of our sources of revenue, the cost of collection of the provincial taxes, the proportion of our revenue receipts we are spending on each subject, the progress we have been able to make in the different Development Schemes and other new schemes and so on. They will also show how we are distributing revenue on new schemes. It will be seen that in the development programme the nation-building departments of Medical and Education are receiving the largest share of our attention.

After partition, the strength of several offices was reduced in the expectation that there would be reduction of work. The expectation has in most cases been falsified. Partition created new problems and changed the character of many. Work in most offices, therefore, increased considerably directly on account of the partition. Further, with the progress of independence every department has been faced with big schemes of expansion. The expansion in our activities requires corresponding expansion

staff. A Special Officer has been appointed to assess the needs of each department in the light of its expanded activities. The examination is not yet complete. But an interim report dealing with the departments which have been examined is being circulated to the Honourable Members. This will broadly indicate the extent and justification of the expansion required. It would appear that largest increases are under Agriculture and Co-operation. It is probable that Police will require large expansion too. A lump provision of 1 crore has been included in the Budget Estimates for 1949-50 to meet the cost of expansion where needed and which may reasonably be sanctioned. This amount represents roughly 10 per cent. of our present expenditure on staff.

The present Government personnel includes a large partition surplus and a large temporary staff appointed during and after the War. The surplus personnel has been absorbed in sanctioned posts but the liens of those who held permanent posts have still to be fixed up. The large temporary personnel cannot all be discharged with a view to revert to normal rules of recruitment immediately. Both these factors create a sense of instability and uncertainty and it requires to be eliminated as quickly as possible. Conditions, however, have not yet reached a state of stability. But as soon as the Special Officer finishes his work of determination of the new set-up and a decision has been reached on it, we shall take up the question of fixing up the lien of all surplus personnel who held permanent posts before partition as well as the question of absorbing as many temporary personnel as possible in permanent posts so that we may be able to revert to the normal rules of recruitment as soon thereafter as possible.

The province has no public debt, funded or floating. Our debt to the Central Government includes a sum of 2 crores and 50 lakhs advanced by the Government of India to help us clear 50 per cent. of the debit balance with the Reserve Bank left by the Government of undivided Bengal, the other 50 per cent. of which was paid by the Government of East Bengal. Our debt to the Government of India at the end of the current year stands at 8 crores 82 lakhs and will increase to 24 crores 83 lakhs at the end of the next year. The main reasons for this increase are loans on account of productive development schemes, the Damodar Valley Project, Grow More Food schemes, Calcutta State Transport scheme and advances to refugees. The expenses of the Damodar Valley Project are to be borne by the three Governments, of India, Bihar and West Bengal. The total cost of the Project is first to be allocated among the three objects, viz., power, flood control and irrigation. The expenditure allocated to power is then apportioned equally among the three Governments. The expenditure allocated to flood control is apportioned equally between the Governments of West Bengal and India, the Government of Bihar taking no part of it and India's share being subject to a ceiling of 7 crores, so that any expenditure allocated to this subject in excess of 14 crores is payable wholly by the Government of West Bengal. The expenditure under irrigation, if for the sole benefit of one province, is borne by the province benefiting and, if common, is allocated between the Governments of West Bengal and Bihar in the proportion of the guaranteed off-take of water, India taking no share of it. According to present arrangements India is to advance the whole amount and has accordingly advanced 91 lakhs to the Government of West Bengal during the current year. The advance that we will require during the next year on this account is 3 crores and 40 lakhs. The Mor Project which is also being financed from loans from the Government of India accounts for a loan of 49 lakhs from the Government of India during the current year and 75 lakhs during the next. We have transferred outlay on a few schemes from a Revenue head to a Capital head during the current year and the same principle is followed during the next. These schemes include the Master Plan for the drainage of Calcutta and surrounding areas.

Under Capital heads are booked expenditure on Development schemes financed from loan and trading transactions of the Civil Supplies Department financed mainly by cash credit advances from the Imperial Bank. The Development schemes financed from loan include a provision of 2 crores 50 lakhs for road development during the next year. The provisions made for development schemes and for direct building programme for housing refugees have already been referred to in this Statement.

The net result of the year 1949-50 is a revenue deficit of 1 crore and 11 lakhs. We do not propose to leave this deficit fully uncovered. The Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill and the Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill which the Legislature passed recently are expected to yield a revenue of about 80 lakhs. Our Budget Estimates for 1949-50 do not include this amount. I have also given notice of two other Bills to increase the rates of entertainments tax and to retain permanently the higher rates of betting tax, totalisator tax and electricity duty beyond 31st March, 1949. The estimated receipts from the betting tax, totalisator tax and the electricity duty at higher rates have been included in the Budget. The entertainments tax, if levied at the higher rates proposed, is expected to yield 20 lakhs. This amount has not been included in the Budget. Assuming that the House will agree to pass the Bills, the uncovered deficit in the Budget Estimates for 1949-50 will be negligible.

In my Budget speech last year I stated that the question of revision of the allocation to the provinces of the net proceeds of income-tax and jute duty collected by the Centre was under correspondence with the Government of India. The main question that arose in course of the correspondence was what adjustment was necessary on account of the partition of the two provinces and a few provinces together with a portion each of the two partitioned provinces going out of the Indian Union.

In spite of our representation, the Central Government has decided that till 31st March, 1950—

(1) the Government of West Bengal will receive only 12 per cent. of the total provincial share of income-tax as against 20 per cent. allowed to Bengal under the Niemeyer Award, and

(2) the share of jute duty allocable to the provinces will be reduced from 62½ per cent. awarded by the Niemeyer Award to 20 per cent only of the net proceeds and that the total provincial share will be distributed among the jute-growing provinces in proportion to the amount of jute grown in each province.

The Government of India have, however, agreed to institute an expert enquiry into the whole question of allocation of the net proceeds of income-tax and jute duty, so that a revised allocation may be given effect to in 1950-51 subject to such provision as may be made in the new Constitution.

I have circulated to Honourable Members for their information a copy of the "Memorandum on the question of allocation of Income-tax and Jute Duty to West Bengal", which we submitted to the Government of India in March, 1948. I regret to have to say that on questions like these the Government of West Bengal has a feeling that its case does not receive adequate attention in Delhi.

It will yet be some time more before we shall be able to stand on our own feet. Our problems have been many—some inherited from before partition and some arising out of partition. We were seriously affected by the War, the famine of 1943 and the communal riot immediately before partition. Partition dislocated our economic life and organisation in many respects. The refugee problem is a huge one, both in its organisational and financial aspects. The road system, the educational system and many things more suffered badly from partition. Besides, the anxiety for quick development is always there. We have, however, to remember two important facts. As a result of the Award of the Arbitral Tribunal on the division of assets

and liabilities of Bengal, we have to buy back, as it were, the buildings and roads left by the Government of Bengal and pay to the Government of East Bengal its share in that price. We have also had to take upon ourselves liabilities of large size left by the Government of undivided Bengal. The magnitude of these liabilities is still to be determined. But it will be quite large. Further, as I have already pointed out, we may be burdened with large losses in respect of loans granted to the refugees. Our expectation of future prosperity has, therefore, to be cautious and must make allowance for these factors.

Further, for 3 or 4 years more, i.e., till we run through, on the basis of the five-year plan, the development grant of about 23 crores promised by the Government of India, we shall be financing the bulk of our development expenditure, both recurring and non-recurring, out of the grant. Thereafter, the Government will be confronted with the necessity of having to find money for all the recurring liabilities arising out of these schemes. As the schemes are unproductive, there is hardly any likelihood that the schemes will increase our national income in such a way that our receipts from taxation will increase so as to cover the whole of the extra burden. These factors require caution on our part and would call for a strict selection of development schemes with a view to immediate increase in national wealth.

I do not propose to go into the details of the estimates of the various departments which will be indicated to you by each Hon'ble Minister at the time of voting for appropriations. They will give you an insight into the activities of the Government in various departments and the broad lines of policy in regard to each.

I have just given you a brief account of our Revised Estimates for this year and the Estimates for the coming year. I am fully conscious that the provisions we have been able to make for the various projects do not go far enough to satisfy our needs which are vast and varied. But having regard to our resources in men, material and money, these are merely an earnest of our intention to place this province well on the road to prosperity and progress and the schemes implemented are what the resources permit under the present circumstances. Our progress must inevitably be slow, relatively to our hopes and aspirations, because, at every step we have to face innumerable bottlenecks. And since we have not the means to waste on costly experiments, every step of ours has to be taken after cool calculation and deliberate reckoning. But whatever our material resources, we must have a congenial atmosphere in which one can settle down to work of a constructive nature. For the present, I regret to notice that the prevalent atmosphere is so full of confusion and suspicion and the air so full of obsessions of one kind or the other, so full of conflicts, that it is difficult to apply one's mind to sustained work. I feel that before we can grapple with the many problems that lie before us, we must subject ourselves to pitiless self-examination and make up our mind as to what should be the directive principle of all our work. It will not help us to be bogged in a swamp of ideas without having an objective appreciation of the realities of our problems. Ideas are nothing if not for bringing greater good to the people by practical application. When I say this I definitely refuse to look to the general problems of the people with a sectional eye. To insist on the interest of the one section independently of the other is to create a fresh problem in our mind and to develop the habit of thinking compartmentally. Instead of thinking of the people as a whole, we are thinking of them in terms of classes, e.g., labour, capitalists, middle-class, agriculturists and so on, though fundamentally, the improvement or deterioration in the lot of the one cannot fail to be reflected in that of every other. This sense of wholeness is being lost in the welter of ideas of exclusiveness which may easily tend to disintegrate our society.

In the first flush of our independence it is but natural that our legislative and reformist zeal may sometimes get the better of our judgment and sense of reality. Too much legislation, calculated to bring about a conformist mentality in the public, may easily lead to undesirable consequences. While it is the duty of Government to set the ladder and indicate the steps, where necessary, the public should be left alone, as far as possible, to take the initiative and develop a positive bent of mind. Even the most well-set ladder cannot make an ascent easier unless one knows how to mount it by his own effort. Law is an aid and a corrective, but it should not be meant to become the rule of life. The best asset of any Government in any country is a self-instructed public, which can take a positive view of things and take a rational attitude towards national problems. I feel that in our zeal to achieve many things at a time, we may be tinkering with too many problems and solve none.

May I also submit that at this nascent stage of our freedom we shall be restricting the scope of our doing good to the people if we were to be tied to the apron-strings of "isms"? "Isms" are the *clichés* of the day. If we were to be the blind followers of a particular "ism", without considering its bearing on our own problem, we may easily be led into a one-way traffic of thought leading us nowhere. In the realm of economic ideologies various theories, e.g., capitalism, socialism and communism are in vogue at the present moment. It is not essential for us, I think, in the present stage of our development, to accept *in toto* any ideology that has its spell on the public mind as the solvent of all our ills. If doing good to the largest number of people is our ideal, it will be prudent for us to accept with discrimination the good points of every "ism" and discard the bad. What is best designed to serve our purpose will always be the best for us irrespective of what label it bears, and no slavish adherence to abstract dogmas should govern our constructive activities. One such dogma—if I may also call it an illusion of our age—is the false dogma of equality. There should, of course, be in any free and democratic society, various types of equality such as social equality, equality of political rights, and, in the economic sector of our lives, there should also be a minimum standard for all. This minimum should not be too low either, below which no citizen should be allowed to slide down. But what I think is a questionable strategy is to take by taxation from those who have more than the average not merely for the common service of the community but just to effect a more equal distribution of wealth. But a process of forcible redistribution of national wealth, apart from encouraging the slacker and the parasite, is, in my opinion, sure to defeat its object sooner or later by destroying all healthy incentives, the incentive to excel, the incentive to save—all worth preserving. A dogmatic insistence on the virtue of equality leads in practice to another mischief. It leads to the idea that the standards of the community as a whole can be raised all round by merely securing a more equitable distribution of existing wealth. This is a mistaken idea which further destroys the incentive to produce more wealth. "If we are not able to level up, let us level down"—this seems to be at the core of this doctrine of equality which, I fear, may result only in the process of levelling down without being able to level up. Subject to the over-riding consideration of larger social welfare and the limit set by this criterion, progress must essentially depend upon the desire to better one's condition by the best of one's endeavour and to keep the fruits of one's industry to oneself—that is to say the profit-motive, which is a fundamental law of nature and cannot be negatived as long as any vestige of individual freedom remains.

In this country, as in others, the drift towards socialism is unmistakable and I also feel that our ultimate goal should be larger socialisation. But having regard to the condition of our country and the stage of development in which we stand today, the most practical course for the next few years should be to hasten, by concerted efforts of every section of the community

and every school of thought, material prosperity of the nation. Till then it will be, I feel, a prudent policy for the country to put ideological differences in cold storage for some time and formulate a national policy based upon the greatest common measure of agreement between all parties.

The attack on wealth is now fairly widespread. There is considerable misconception about the vastness of wealth and the large number of the rich in society. In fact, any factual survey goes to show that the rich are neither so rich, nor are there so many of them in the country, as many suppose. If income-tax returns are an indication, they point to a different conclusion. In 1940-41, the latest year for which authentic information is available, there were only 2 lakhs 75 thousand income-tax assessees in the whole of British India, and the number of persons assessed to the tax on the basis of an income of Rs. 1 lakh or over was approximately 2,800—thus showing that in that year the total income-tax paying class represented only ·07 per cent. of the total population and persons in the income bracket of Rs. 1 lakh and over only ·0007 per cent. Persons with an income of Rs. 1 lakh or above represented roughly 1 per cent. of the total income-tax paying class. Nearly 50 per cent. of the assessees belonged to income grades of below Rs. 5,000 a year. These figures relate to India before partition and it is of the greatest importance that the Government of India should re-examine the position since the partition of the country. Up-to-date and reliable statistics about the percentage shares of the different income groups in the national wealth of the country are not available—this is a lacuna which should be given a high priority in any overall improvement of statistical information in the country—but it may be, I think, quite safely presumed that persons who form such an infinitesimal proportion of the total population (such as ·0007 per cent.) have between them far less than even one per cent. of the wealth of the country. The same remarks apply also to other upper income groups in the country. The War might have improved the position somewhat but I do not think it is such as to fundamentally alter the picture.

The road to wealth in this country, I may point out, is not so easy and smooth as many seem to imagine. Further, under the present rates of income-tax and super-tax, it is difficult, if not impossible, for any one to be wealthy in the accepted sense. The House will be interested to know that the net income remaining to a person with an earned income of Rs. 1 lakh, is only Rs. 51,656 approximately; a person with an income of Rs. 2 lakhs keeps Rs. 68,844, i.e., an additional amount of Rs. 17,188 only for an additional earning of Rs. 1 lakh; a person with an income of Rs. 5 lakhs can keep only Rs. 84,469 approximately, i.e., an additional amount of Rs. 15,625 for a further income of Rs. 3 lakhs over Rs. 2 lakhs while a person with an income of Rs. 10 lakhs has only Rs. 1,00,094 to call his own after paying the taxes. These certainly are not conditions conducive to the growth of savings and nobody can roll in wealth under such circumstances, unless, of course, he is in the enjoyment of wealth inherited from forbears or could make his pile before the war when the income-tax rates were lower. After having paid income-tax and super-tax at the present rates nobody can hope to get rich quick except, of course, by the dubious course of tax-dodging or black-marketing. For the latter class of activities it is the social conscience that can alone serve as the most potent corrective; for, in the final analysis these are the symbolic expressions of the lack of our national character. The Government are no doubt doing all that is possible to check these anti-social activities, but unless those who run the mechanism of administration are themselves inspired by a high sense of duty and integrity, mere tightening up of the machinery of administration can do little or nothing. The problem of eradicating tax-dodging or black-marketing is, therefore, ultimately a problem of improving the basic human raw material.

It has been recently calculated that in America persons with incomes of 25,000 a year and above—the former "Economic Royalists" as they were lled—had 6·7 per cent. of the national income in 1917 which sank to 3·4 er cent. in the Hoover regime and 2·5 per cent. in 1941 under Roosevelt. here is not enough fat on these "bloated" individuals, as has been ppropriately stated, to make a meal of any heartiness for the rest of the opulation, even if they were swallowed whole. In India, the metaphor pplies even more appositely. If all the wealth of the wealthy people were orcibly taken over by the State, it would not provide even early morning ea for 300 million people. Cutting of the tallest poppies will not mean llowing opportunities for the shrubs to grow to any height.

It has been stated in respect of U.S.A. that progressive income-tax ould redistribute only about 2 per cent. of the national income while slight improvement in business conditions improves the condition of the asses by anything between 5 and 10 per cent. In India the proportion of ational income which could be redistributed by a progressive income-tax s much less but the improvement which better business conditions would ffect in the condition of the masses is much greater. If, therefore, the hoice lay between an excessively progressive income-tax with its chilling ffect on business condition and slightly lower level of income-tax with nproved business condition, the path of public policy should be clear.

It is freely said that our ultimate objective should be to hasten the dvent of *Krishak-Praja-Majdoor Raj*. But if one would care to probe little deeper into its significance, one would find that even today we are orking upon a foundation of such a *raj*; for, even under the present ranchise, the ultimate political power rests with the Krishak-Majdoor. Iost of the representatives of the people in this House represent the rural nd labour interests; there are only a handful of representatives of the o-called capitalists and the landed interests. In any legislation designed o provide relief to the Krishak-Praja, the voice of the latter is submerged nd they are powerless to influence the course of legislation in their favour. n the other hand, the interest of the Krishak-Praja has always been assigned op priority in the programme of all the political parties that have held the eins of Government in this province at one time or another in recent years. he once powerful Krishak-Praja Party ruled this province for a number f years with the avowed object of improving the lot of the Krishak-Praja. Unfortunately, in actual practice, no party could do much for them, not ecause they lacked good intention, but because they had no clear, definite nd workable plans whereby improvement could be effected, nor the achinery to implement them. With the extensive power that now rests ith us, there is nothing whatsoever that can prevent any Government to nprove the lot of Krishak-Majdoor; in fact, self-interest demands that this hould be done if any Government is to retain its power. Besides, now hat adult franchise is going to be introduced, no political party can hope o come into power without the help and support of the Krishak-Majdoor. o, to harp on the interest of the Krishak-Majdoor alone is merely to mphasise the obvious which needs no underlining in these days of emocracy. But the question that really matters is not, as I said, any lack f good intention on anybody's part, but the lack of ideas as to how best o serve the interest of the Krishak-Majdoor. It is not by levelling down hose who are high on the ladder that the lot of the Krishak-Praja can be nproved; it is by levelling up those who are low in the ladder, that they an be lifted from their present plight. Governments have come and gone, ach wedded to the ideal of improving the lot of the Krishak-Majdoor: ome of the most aggressive exponents of the cult had also been in power, ut not much could be done by them. But if they also failed to do anything owards this end, it is because the problem is so vast and the difficulties in he way of formulating concrete and practical schemes are so stupendous

and the atmosphere for putting them into effect so uncongenial that, despite the best attempts on the part of every one of them, we have progressed but little. Besides our resources in men, material and equipment are so inadequate compared to the task before us, that it is always easier said than done. For instance, any improvement in the lot of the Krishak-Praja involves irrigation, proper manuring of land, land reclamation, co-operative farming and a variety of other efforts. All these require resources not only in men, material and money, but also in "know-how" of things and must inevitably be a slow and arduous process. So we must perforce "hasten slowly" and cannot fashion a new heaven and a new earth all at once. These are practical considerations which should not be lost sight of in our zeal to bring about a Utopia in a trice. We have behind us the experiences of failures and successes, of blasted hopes and unrealised dreams, of unpractical ambition and futile efforts; if we draw lessons from all these that past has taught us, I think, we shall make a better success of our endeavours. If we desire to chew more than we can eat, we must fail. The result is that the more we fail, the more we give way to self-deception and doctrines begin to degenerate into dogmas and slogans begin to consume all our enthusiasm for action. Unless we are clear in our own minds as to what should be the best way to realise the ideal of Krishak-Majdoor Raj in terms of objective conditions and reality and have the proper machinery to implement the schemes we may formulate, coupled with intelligent public support, mere reiteration of an accepted creed will but avail little and will only tend to create disappointment. I would ask the House to recognise the pitfalls of giving too much political turn to these ideas and objectives without realising their true import in the present order of things.

Now that we are firmly established on the saddle of self-government, I think it is time that we paused awhile for a revaluation of values. It is in times of great success or great failure that one should look inward and subject oneself to heart-searching. This is as true of an individual as of a nation. Whether in the rush of events we have been able to develop that poise of mind which helps calm reflection is a matter on which, I am afraid, all of us here in this House may not agree. If I may venture my own reaction, I may submit that when I look to our people and find that mental poverty, intellectual sterility and want of a due regard for reality, doubts and misgivings haunt my mind and I am led to believe that to us freedom has come only to change the externals of our lives but has not been able yet to touch the deeper cores. Had it done so, I do not think that in judging Government or public policies, our people would have been guided by the same spirit of malevolence as used to inspire them in their dealings with the foreign Government. It seems that the old slogans and phrases which used to be hurled with devastating effect against a foreign Government are still largely in use against our own Government in the new setting of freedom. But I think that the time has now come to assess and analyse the true import of these slogans and judge their merit as a rallying cry for a free people. Slogans and phrases, whatever may be their other demerits, have the great merit of galvanising drooping spirits into activity; they infuse fervour in the blood and endow even the remote and the unrealisable with a halo. But in a situation like the one in which we are at present, slogans and phrases must undergo change and conform themselves to the changing needs of the time. Empty and meaningless jargons which merely excite the unthinking mind must be abjured if we are to turn the minds of the people to the stern reality that faces them today. It is not the duty of a Finance Minister to play the mental censor of a people, but if I digress for a while to expatiate on this theme in the context of the Budget, it is because I feel that, unless the minds of the people can be turned towards the reality of the situation, free from the cloud of unreason created by these slogans and catch-phrases, even the most well-intentioned Finance Minister will find his labour lost in confusion and controversy.

APPENDIX.

West Bengal Budget 1949-50

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Budget, 1948-49.	Revised, 1948-49.	Budget, 1949-50.
Receipts—			
Opening Balance ..	2,54,22	3,60,04	3,65,33
Revenue Receipts ..	31,18,52	30,58,76	31,83,04
Receipts from Debt Heads ..	72,86,39	87,90,01	1,03,87,53
	1,06,59,13	1,22,08,81	1,39,35,90
Expenditure—			
Revenue Expenditure .	31,96,45	30,82,02	32,93,95
Capital Expenditure ..	5,67,00	4,09,55	13,16,16
Expenditure on Debt Heads ..	68,20,79	83,51,91	91,93,94
Closing Balance ..	74,89	3,65,33	1,31,85
	1,06,59,13	1,22,08,81	1,39,35,90
Net Result—			
Surplus (+)			
Deficit (—)			
(*a*) On Revenue Account .	—77,93	—23,26	—1,10,91
(*b*) Outside Revenue Account .	—1,01,40	+ 28,55	—1,22,57
(*c*) Net, excluding Opening Balance	—1,79,33	+ 5,29	— 2,33,48

Objection to curtailment of four days' time between presentation and general discussion of the Budget.

Janab A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you adjourn the House may I point out that according to the original programme four days' recess was allowed to study the budget. I would, therefore, request you to grant us those four days' time to study the Budget.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, the programme, I think, has been fixed and it will be very difficult to change it now.

Janab A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: Unfortunately, Sir, due to the death of the Hon'ble Sri Kiran Sankar Roy one day's time is lost. May I request Government to accede to the request of the Opposition and to give us four days' time?

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand the Chief Whip has circulated an erratum.

Janab A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: I think some of our friends of the Government benches have no objection.

Sri PRAMATHA NATH BANDOPADHAYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাজেটে cut motion দিতে হবে, সেইজন্য বাজেট পড়তে কিছু সময় লাগে।

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as cut motions are concerned, there is enough time. Only three days intervene between today and the general discussion.

Sri PRAMATHA NATH BANDOPADHAYA: কাল শিবরাত্রি। কাল বন্ধ।

Mr. SPEAKER: কাল ত ছুটি আছে।

Sri KANAI LAL DE: সমস্ত পড়ে দিতে হলে চারদিন চাই; তিনদিন হয়ে যাচ্ছে, কাল যদিও বন্ধ সকলেরই উপবাস আছে, কেউ পড়তে পারবে না, কাজেই আমি বলছি একদিন shift করলে হয় না?

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the programme stand.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Sir, before you give your final judgment I beg to submit that we have received the circular letter that the Chief Whip has sent to us. Are we to take the circular letter of the Chief Whip as final in this matter? What we propose to say is this: we realise the difficulties of Government, but at the same time Government must appreciate our difficulties as well. The Budget is becoming more and more a serious thing these days. So, for proper and intimate study of the Budget estimates and all the papers that have been circulated, you will yourself realise that three days are not sufficient. At least clear four days should be given for doing justice to these papers. If the Government do not want us to closely study the Budget and to place our views for their consideration, if simply because they have votes and they expect to get these things passed by the strength of their numbers, in that case time will not be of any use. If contrary is the case, then four days' time must necessarily be allowed to us.

Sri KANAI LAL DE: Sir, একদিনের Legislative Assemblyর কাজ পেছিয়ে দেবেন, তাতে কিছু অসুবিধা হবে না।

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: May I submit, Sir, that there is absolutely no intention on the part of Government to deprive the House of the requisite time necessary for the study of the Budget. As usual, provision was accordingly made. Nobody had foreseen that such a tragedy would have happened to upset the programme. I may also submit that on previous occasions situation had arisen where slight adjustments of this kind had had to be made. So it is nothing very very unprecedented. Now, the programme was carefully drawn up. If anybody would examine the programme he would find that it was thoroughly packed and the time was provided amply. Only we are short of one day because of this tragedy, and I hope that the honourable members will not find it very difficult to study the Budget. My friend has said about Shivaratri holiday. I think the Shivaratri holiday will provide better facility for study and assimilation of the Budget rather than deprive him of the opportunity to do so. After that there will be general discussion and ample time has been given for cut motions. I submit, Sir, the matter was discussed and carefully considered. Only when it was found that it was very difficult because of this loss of one day to find extended time that, I believe, the Chief Whip had circulated a special letter to the members, and in view of that I hope the honourable members will agree to leave the programme as it is and leave it to the Chief Whip to see what can be done. But, Sir, the matter was discussed and it was found very very difficult to alter the programme. It was not at all the Government's intention or of Government's seeking that we have lost one day.

Sir, I think there is another point to which I should invite your attention and the attention of the House. There is provision for four days for

general discussion on the Budget and that provision stands. In addition to the provision of four days for general discussion an interval of four days had been provided for to enable the honourable members to study the Budget thoroughly. What we are losing in time is only one day in the interval. We are not curtailing any day out of the four days provided for general discussion. I therefore hope that if that is taken into account, there will be no ground for any objection to the programme standing as it is, because four full days have been provided for discussion.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: The Hon'ble Minister does not appreciate our difficulties. He will himself agree with us when we say that the Budget covers many matters, surveys the whole international situation, talks of philosophy, psychology, various other isms, this and that. Unless we study all these things intimately, we will not be able to offer any criticism thereon.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think we should discuss this matter any further. I have heard the objections with regard to this matter. I feel it is simply unfortunate that we lose one day.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Sir, we withdraw our objection.

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Of interval?

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 4 p.m. on Monday.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 6 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Monday, the 28th February, 1949, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 28th February, 1949, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 58 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Temporary clerks in the Irrigation Department.

*1. **Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJEE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department aware that there is a number of clerks in the Irrigation Department who have been serving in temporary capacity for a period exceeding 10 or 12 years in the Divisional or Circle cadre or in both without being made permanent?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of taking steps in pursuance of the Memo. No. 4608-Estbt./S/SR/53/46, dated the 21st December, 1946, of the Chief Minister's Department (Establishment) Government of West Bengal for confirming these officials with retrospective effect and fixing their seniority on the basis of the total period served?

MINISTER in charge of the IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sri Bhupati Majumdar): (*a*) হাঁ, বর্তমানে শুধু দক্ষিণ মণ্ডলের অধ্যক্ষ বাস্তুকারের অধীনে এইরূপ কয়েকজন অস্থায়ী করণিক আছেন। প্রয়োজন মত তাঁহাদিগকে স্থায়ী করিবার প্রস্তাব বর্তমান সরকারের বিবেচনাধীন আছে।

(*b*) পূর্বে অস্থায়ী কর্মচারিগণ সমপর্যায়ের স্থায়ী কর্মচারীদের বেতনের হারের নিম্নতম বেতন নির্দিষ্ট বেতন হিসাবে পাইতেন এবং বেতন বৃদ্ধির অধিকারী ছিলেন না। ২১শে ডিসেম্বর ১৯৪৬ তারিখের আদেশে অস্থায়ী কর্মচারীগণকে বেতন সম্বন্ধে স্থায়ী কর্মচারীদের মত সুবিধা দেওয়া হইয়াছে। কাজেই অস্থায়ী করণিকগণ সমপর্যায়ের করণিকদের বেতনের হারে বেতন পাইতেছেন এবং বেতন বৃদ্ধির অধিকারী হইয়াছেন। উক্ত আদেশ দ্বারা অস্থায়ী করণিকগণের পদসমূহ স্থায়ী করার কোন নির্দেশ দেওয়া হয় নাই।

Coal supply to filatures.

*2. **Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department aware that a good number of wagons of coal is being supplied for the use of filature owners since the beginning of the great war?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have enquired into the existence or otherwise of these filatures?

(*c*) Does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of stopping the supply of coal to non-existing filatures, if there be any?

(*d*) If so, when?

MINISTER in charge of the INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. Allotment of coal to filatures is made after thorough investigation. Submission of monthly returns by them of consumption of coal and production of silk is also insisted upon as a further precautionary measure to eliminate non-existing filatures from getting any allotment.

(*c*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many filatures there were before the war and how many are there now?

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I want notice.

Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what quantity of coal used to be supplied to these filatures before and how much is being supplied now?

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I want notice.

Provincialisation of the Calcutta Dental College and Hospital.

*3. **Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health (Medical) Department be pleased to state if it is a fact that the authorities of the Calcutta Dental College and Hospital have offered a free gift of the institution to the Government of West Bengal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Government have accepted the offer; and

(*ii*) if not, the reasons therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the HEALTH DEPARTMENT (The Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy): (*a*) The Calcutta Dental College and Hospital is accommodated in a hired building. The authorities of the institution have offered a free gift of its furniture, instruments and appliances.

(*b*) (*i*) Steps are being taken to provincialise the institution.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

Alleged death of a patient of the women's section of the Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi.

*4. **Srijukta BINA BHOWMICK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical and Public Health Department be pleased to state if it is a fact—

(*i*) that sometime back a patient of the women's section of the Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi, died without having any medical attendance;

(*ii*) that the patient died when the Assistant Superintendent in charge of the women's section was on duty; and

(*iii*) that the said incident was reported to the Hon'ble Minister?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the steps he took or he proposes to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: (*a*) (*i*) The Superintendent, Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi, reports that no such incident occurred in the women's section of the hospital.

(*ii*) and (*b*) Do not arise.

(*iii*) No.

*5. **Sri J. C. GUPTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge c the Medical and Public Health Department be pleased to state if it is fact—

(i) that sometime back a patient of the women's section of the India Mental Hospital, Ranchi, died without having any medica attendance;

(ii) that the patient died when the Assistant Superintendent in charg of the women's section was on duty; and

(iii) that the said incident was reported to the Hon'ble Minister?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Ministe be pleased to state the steps he took or he proposes to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: The member is referre to the reply to starred question No. 4 by Srijukta Bina Bhowmick, M.L.A. on the same subject.

B.L.P. taxis of 24-Parganas.

*6. **Janab Md. KHUDA BUKHSH:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Ministe in charge of the Home (Transport) Department be pleased to state if he i aware—

(i) that the B.L.P. taxis plying in the district of 24-Parganas hav not been provided with fare-meters;

(ii) that the B.L.P. taxi drivers do not display in their cars the printe fare-charts, if any, prominently; and

(iii) that the passengers are put to extreme inconvenience and ar exacted fares much more than usual rates charged by the Calcutt taxi drivers?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, do the Government conside the desirability of providing fare-meters to the B.L.P. taxis or to enforc the display of fare-charts, if any, in the taxis?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME (TRANSPORT) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy): (a)(i) Yes. Under rule 173 o the Bengal Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, the installation of a taxi-meter i imperative only in the case of taxis plying in Calcutta (including suburbs) and the Municipality of Howrah. It is not compulsory to instal meters i taxis for the rest of 24-Parganas district.

(ii) Yes. Tariff for B.L.P. taxis has been fixed at Re. 1 for the firs mile and annas 12 for subsequent miles and half the fare for return journey outside their jurisdiction since 24th March, 1948. There is a proposal now before Government to enforce the display of fare-plates on all the taxis.

(iii) A few complaints of exacting excessive fares have been reported and immediate action has been taken on such complaints.

(b) The matter regarding the installation of taxi-meters on B.L.P. taxi is already under consideration but has been held up as taxi-meters are not available at present. Government will consider the question again when taxi-meters are available.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many B.L.P. taxis there are at present?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: I want notice.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when will this proposal to enforce the display of fareplates mature?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: As soon as possible; we will do it very soon.

Promotion of some officers of Bengal Civil Service.

*7. **Sri KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (General Administration) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that this year there have been promotions of some members of the Bengal Junior Civil Service of under 10 years' standing to the Bengal Civil Service?

(b) If the answer (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) whether the above promotions were made on the recommendations of the defunct Public Service Commission set up by the Government of undivided Bengal without reference to the present Public Service Commission set up by the West Bengal Government; and

(ii) whether there has been any case of supersession in the above promotions?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the case of promotions of B.C.S officers to the "listed" posts he has followed the principle of seniority?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: (a) Yes. Three such promotions have been made in 1948.

(b) (i) Yes. In view of shortage of officers in the West Bengal Civil Service rank some promotions were made and the present Public Service Commission was duly informed.

(ii) Promotion is made by selection on the basis of the recommendations of the Public Service Commission and no question of supersession arises.

(c) No. Seniority and merit were both considered as has been the practice all along.

Policy of Government regarding issue of licences for firearms.

*8. **Sri ANANDILAL PODDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(a) what is the policy of the Government in regard to the granting of licences for firearms including guns, rifles and revolvers to citizens of the Indian Union;

(b) how many applications for licences for—

(i) guns and rifles, and

(ii) pistols and revolvers,

have been received between August 15th and November 15th, 1947, and how many of these have been sanctioned (A) in Calcutta and (B) outside Calcutta; and

(c) what steps, if any, have been taken to see that the supplies of firearms with the dealers in West Bengal are adequately maintained and that no portion thereof may be diverted to Pakistan without the sanction of the Government of West Bengal?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: (a) The grant of licence for a rifle or smooth-bore gun, not of prohibited bore, is governed by the broad principle that the arms must not be allowed to fall into the hands of lawless people or of people who are not likely to require them, and licences for

revolvers and pistols are granted only to persons of undoubted reliability and very good credentials, who have a genuine need of such weapons and can be relied upon to keep them in safe custody.

		(i)	(ii)
(b)	Calcutta ...	398	256
	Outside Calcutta ...	909	188

(A) Guns and rifles—193.
Revolvers and pistols—66.

(B) Guns and rifles—260.
Revolvers and pistols—80.

(c) This Government have received no requests from dealers in arms and ammunition for assistance in buying arms for supply to the public. The importation of arms and ammunition from foreign countries is controlled by the Government of India who have presumably to consider the exchange position in this connection. If any difficulties are reported to this Government they will be brought to the notice of the Government of India. The Government of India have recently arranged the import of some firearms, a portion of which has been allotted to dealers in West Bengal.

Steps have been taken to ensure that no arms and ammunition are sold by any dealers in West Bengal to any licensees from outside the Indian Dominion or to those whose licences have been issued from West Bengal but who are now residing outside the Indian Dominion. No licensee who is a resident of West Bengal is permitted to take his arms across the border without the written permission of the District Magistrate. Besides, arms and ammunition cannot be exported from the Indian Dominion and such exports of arms, etc., are controlled under the Export and Import Control Act and the Customs Act. The weapons belonging to persons who are migrating from the Indian Dominion are, however, an exception to the general rule and they are being allowed to be removed in terms of the Inter-Dominion agreement effected at Lahore.

Lifting of the stock of textile goods of West Bengal mills by nominated buyers.

*9. **Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(a) if it is a fact that difficulties are being experienced by West Bengal textile mills on account of the arrangements made for the lifting of their finished stock;

(b) the names, constitution and paid-up share capital of the firms or individuals who have been appointed as handling agents for lifting the stock of finished products of West Bengal textile mills;

(c) remuneration and other terms on which handling agents have been appointed;

(d) principles on which appointment of handling agents has been made; and

(e) the total value of the entire finished stock of West Bengal textile mills lifted per month?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sri Prafulla Chandra Sen): (a) No.

(*b*) The parties selected for lifting the stock were appointed as nominated buyers and are not called handling agents—

Name.	Constitution.	Paid-up share capital.
1. The West Bengal Provincial Co-operative Industrial Procurement and Distribution Society, Limited.	Registered under the Bengal Co-operative Societies Act, 1940.	Rs.4,64,000.
2. Messrs. G. D. Banerjee & Co., Ltd.	Private limited concern, membership limited to one family.	Rs.8,00,000.
3. Messrs. Janak, Ltd. ..	Public limited concern (incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 1943).	Rs.12,97,250.
4. Messrs. Mohadeo Ramkumar.	Proprietary business concern.	Prepared to invest any amount for business that may be required.
5. Messrs. Ramkumar Shewchandray.	Proprietary firm ..	Can invest any amount up to Rs.1,00,00,000 or so.
6. Messrs. B. C. Nawn & Bros.	Private limited concern	Rs. 9,85,000.

(*c*) The nominated buyers were appointed on the following terms:—

They would lift the stocks on pre-payment to the mills, store the same in their own godowns and distribute to parties according to the direction of Government. The remuneration for delivery at the nominated buyers' godowns is 4 per cent. of the *ex*-mill price and for delivery at the subdivisional railhead (including payment of freights, storage, insurance and other incidental charges up to the railhead) 5 per cent of the *ex*-mill price.

(*d*) Previous experience of the work financial capacity, storage capacity, and ability for carrying out the directions of Government.

(*e*) About Rs.60,00,000 for August production + Rs.90,00,000 for July stocks.

Sri BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: With reference to answer (*a*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to various statements that were issued by the President of the Bengal Millowners' Association to the effect that large stocks were lying with the mills and were not being regularly lifted by the nominated buyers?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: Yes, I have come across in newspapers a certain statement made by the Bengal Millowners' Association and that statement is not correct.

Sri BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if information has been sent to him only recently by certain mills that their stocks are not being lifted by the nominated buyers within the period of time within which they should have been lifted?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: So far as my information goes, the stocks lying with the mills have already been lifted.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the first firm in the list, namely, the West Bengal Provincial Co-operative Industrial Procurement and Distribution Society, Limited, was the only firm allowed to lift such stocks at the beginning?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: Yes, it was so.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the same firm is the sole lifting agents for yarns?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: Yes.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the annual value of the yarn that is supposed to be lifted by this firm?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: I want notice.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of firms that are nominated buyers today, that is, if there has been any increase in the number?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: If the honourable member would refer to my answer, given previously, he will find them. The number is now about 24 or 26.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any truth in the report that the Government of India have issued directions that if these nominated buyers do not lift their stocks from the mills within a period of one month, the mills would be free to dispose of their stocks after that period?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: No. I am not aware of that order.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is satisfied that the financial resources of some of the firms are such as would enable them to undertake the work entrusted to them efficiently?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: I know that their financial resources are quite satisfactory.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is a lot of grievance on the part of the millowners that their stocks are not being lifted regularly?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: So far as I am aware, their stocks are lifted regularly though there may be delay for a week or a fortnight.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the traders had not agreed to lift the stocks at a commission of two per cent. or even less?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: No.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the commission paid on such transactions by the Bombay Government is only 1¼ per cent.?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: I want notice.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister find out if that is actually the commission paid by Bombay Government to such people?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: I shall try to find that out.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers which were laid on the table)

Canal Road South, Calcutta.

1. **Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact—

(*i*) that the Canal Road South, Calcutta, has not been repaired for the last fourteen years,

(*ii*) that there are potholes ranging from 9 inches to 19 inches in this road,

(*iii*) that since the 15th August, 1947, a major portion of this road has been allowed to be used by the timber merchants for stacking their timber and thus blocking the entire road, and

(*iv*) that estimates for the repair of this road have been made from time to time but when presented to the Finance Department the fund available was found to have been exhausted;

(*b*) whether the Government have considered the desirability of handing over this Canal Road to the Corporation of Calcutta; and

(*c*) if not, when the Government will consider the desirability of repairing the road?

MINISTER in charge of the IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sri Bhupati Majumdar): (*a*)(*i*) No. Patch repairs were last done in 1943-44. Potholes are being closed from time to time.

(*ii*) Yes, there are some potholes in some portions of the road.

(*iii*) No. This road has never been allowed to be used by timber merchants for stacking their timber but sometimes they make unauthorised encroachment on the berm of the canal. Effective measures to prevent this are under consideration.

(*iv*) No.

(*b*) The matter was considered. But until a final solution to the problem of the difficulties of the drainage of Greater Calcutta is found on the results of the investigations, now in progress, a final decision cannot be taken.

(*c*) This road was constructed in the interest of canal traffic, viz., for transport of merchandise coming or going by the canals and not for purposes unconnected with the transport of merchandise by canals. Steps for repairing the road to the past standard which is sufficient for the purpose for which it was constructed are being taken. But some delay may occur owing to the difficulty of procuring stone metals.

The question of improving the road to a higher standard than in the past is under consideration.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that no potholes have been closed since 1944 on this road?

The Hon'ble Sri BHUPATI MAJUMDAR: They have been regularly attended to by departmental locksmen.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that there is no provision in the budget for the repairs of this particular road?

The Hon'ble Sri BHUPATI MAJUMDAR: From the answer the honourable member might gather that it is not possible for this department to procure metals for the road; and not only that, such roads when they were first constructed were not meant for the traffic that is now using the road. So this road is kept in the same way as it was done in old days, and there is the question now of handing over this road either to the Development Department or to the Public Works Department to keep it under proper repairs, when the materials for keeping the road in proper order are received.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Is it a fact that there are factories and dwelling houses abutting on this road and that they are paying taxes to the Calcutta Corporation although they are denied the amenities they are entitled to enjoy, due to lack of repair of this road?

The Hon'ble Sri BHUPATI MAJUMDAR: Well, I may repeat again that we only keep this road in some good order as was done when the road was constructed for the purpose. But this road is now being used for other traffic as well as for other purposes, and so we are not in a position to keep it in proper order. There are some twelve miles of this road and unless we have materials enough to see to the proper keeping of the road, it is impossible for the department to keep it in good order.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Is it a fact that this road does not figure anywhere in the scheme of drainage work prepared either by Dr. De or by other engineers of the Calcutta Corporation?

The Hon'ble Sri BHUPATI MAJUMDAR: Investigations are going on at present and the data will be received very soon, and then I will be in a position to satisfy the honourable member.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: I think I did not make myself clear. Is it a fact that this road—the Canal South Road—does not figure anywhere in any of the schemes which have been prepared either by the Calcutta Corporation or by the Government of West Bengal?

The Hon'ble Sri BHUPATI MAJUMDAR: It comes under the Greater Calcutta Drainage Scheme and the data are being collected. There have been surveys.—Air survey and other regular surveys are being made now and the data will be ready very soon. As soon as the data are ready, certainly I shall be in a position to satisfy the honourable member.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Is it not a fact that the Hon'ble Minister had never been to this side of the city?

The Hon'ble Sri BHUPATI MAJUMDAR: I say that this Minister had been there 20 times.

Riot cases pending for disposal on the 15th August, 1947.

2. Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(a) the total number of riot cases pending for disposal on the 15th August, 1947;

(b) the number of these cases against the Muslims;

(c) the total number of riot cases withdrawn since the 15th August, 1947;

(d) the number of such cases against the Muslims;

(e) the total number of Muslim accused in all the riot cases pending against them since the 15th August;

(f) the total number of Muslims in the riot cases withdrawn since the 15th August;

(g) the number of riot cases which are pending before the criminal court at present;

(h) how many of these are against the Muslims;

(i) the number of new riot cases which have been started by the Police in Calcutta and 24-Parganas since the 15th August, 1947, for offences committed before that date; and

(j) the number of these cases which are against the Muslims?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy): The time and labour involved in obtaining and collating the information will not be commensurate with the result.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: On a point of privilege, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister has refused to answer this question saying that the labour involved will not be commensurate with the result. It is for the Speaker of the House to say whether the question should be answered or not. So far as the question of labour is concerned, I do not think it comes in anywhere. If you see the questions (g) and (h), they are very important so far as I am concerned because I find that many of the cases are pending since 1947 and have not been disposed of as yet. I want to know how many such cases are pending and I hope you will give a decision asking the Minister in charge to reply to this question, no matter what amount of labour is involved.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry I cannot compel the Hon'ble Minister to give a reply in any other form. Such replies have been given previously. It is for the Government to consider as to what reply they are prepared to give.

Service condition of shroffs or poddars of Government Treasuries.

3. Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether the shroffs or *poddars* who work in the Government Treasuries are treated as employees in the permanent cadre?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) whether their scale of pay is lower than that of the ordinary junior clerk in the employ of the Government;

(ii) whether they handle large sums of money; and

(iii) whether the pay is commensurate with their responsibility?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government consider the desirability of enhancing their emoluments?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker): (a) No. *Poddars* handle cash on the Treasurer's responsibility. They are appointed on the nomination of the Treasurer, who remains responsible for their good conduct. There is thus a possibility of change of *poddars* in a Treasury with change of Treasurers. The *poddars* are accordingly treated as temporary Government servants.

(b) The answers to these questions do arise, though the answer to (a) is not in the affirmative and are as follows:—

(*i*) Yes. Their emoluments and allowances are shown in the table below:—

Posts.	Pay scale	First *ad interim* increase	Second *ad interim* increase.	Dearness allowance.	Food concession.	House rent, if admissible.	Scale of total emolument of a *poddar* with a family of four.
		Rs		Rs	Rs.	Rs	
Trained head *poddars*	Rs 35—1—50	10	20 per cent of the pay including first *ad interim* increase	25	Single 2 Family of 2 3-8 Family of 3 5 Family of 4 6	2	Rs.87 to 105.
Untrained head *poddars*: *poddars* who passed shorter course.	Rs. 20—1/2—30	4	Do.	25	Do.	2	Rs.62 to 74.
Poddars who do not pass the shorter course	Rs 15—1/2—25	4	Do	25	Do.	2	Rs.56 to 68.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) Yes. The basic scale of pay has been in existence since 1921.

(*c*) The emoluments have recently been increased from time to time through grant of *ad interim* increases and dearness allowance.

There is some printing mistake. At page 3 under the head "Trained head *poddars*", instead of 25 it should be 35 and the total scale should be 97 to 115.

Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA: Does the Government consider the desirability of accepting them as so many permanent employees?

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Government cannot take them as permanent employees.

Cancellation of licences of 15 Appointed Retailers at Darjeeling.

4. Sri BASANTLAL MURARKA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the licences of 15 Appointed Retailers under the Town Rationing Officer, Darjeeling, have been cancelled recently?

(*b*) If so, for what reason?

(*c*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that the said Appointed Retailers submitted a written representation by way of review to the Deputy Director of Rationing and Distribution; and

(*ii*) that the Hon'ble Minister was pleased to direct an enquiry on the said representation?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has been the result of the enquiry?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sri Prafulla Chandra Sen): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The reasons are prosecution and conviction for rationing offences, lack of financial stability, etc.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The result of the enquiries showed that there was no ground for reviewing the order of cancellation passed in these 15 cases.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Tours of Hon'ble Ministers.

*10. (SHORT NOTICE.) **Sri PRAMATHA NATH BANDOPADHYAYA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of tours made by different Hon'ble Ministers and the amount of travelling allowances charged for each of their tours during the period from January to August, 1948;

(*b*) if any other expenses were incurred by Government for arranging their tours during the said period; and

(*c*) if so, what is the total amount incurred therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker): A statement is placed on the Library Table.

Sri PRAMATHA NATH BANDOPADHYAYA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় যে হিসাব tables রেখেছেন তার চেয়ে বিশদভাবে হিসাব পাওয়ার সম্ভাবনা আছে কি?

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: তার চেয়ে বেশী বিশদ পাওয়ার সম্ভাবনা নেই, বিশদভাবেই answer দেওয়া হয়েছে।

Sri PRAMATHA NATH BANDOPADHYAYA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলবেন কি যে যাঁরা মোটরগাড়ী চালান তাঁরা মোটরগাড়ীর allowance ছাড়াও allowance পান কি না?

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: তাঁরা মোটরগাড়ীর allowance ছাড়াও রেলে চড়লে রেলভাড়া ও বহুদূর গেলে নিয়ম অনুযায়ী road mileage পান। এ সম্বন্ধে যে নিয়ম আছে সেই নিয়মমত ছাড়া, কিছুই বেশী পান না।

Export of cattle to Eastern Pakistan from Murshidabad district.

*11. **Maharaja SRIS CHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) if he is aware that traders from Eastern Pakistan are purchasing hundreds of milch cows, and oxen and buffaloes for the plough from the cattle markets of Nimtita and Beldanga in the district of Murshidabad and are exporting them to Eastern Pakistan by the route *via* Lalgola and Patikabari and also across Nadia border; and

(*ii*) if his attention has been drawn to newspaper reports to that effect?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the steps he has taken or proposes to take to stop this export?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of enquiring into the matter and taking necessary steps to stop this export?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sri Jadabendra Nath Panja): (a) Yes.

(b) The matter has been taken up with the Government of India and their decision is awaited.

(c) Does not arise.

Scarcity of cloth and rice in Tehatta and Karimpur thanas of Navadwip district.

***12. Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(i) that thanas of Tehatta and Karimpore in the district of Navadwip are suffering from scarcity of cloth and rice; and

(ii) that the residents of these thanas did not get any cloth even during the *Pujas*?

(b) If so, why?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have taken any step to remove the difficulties?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sri Prafulla Chandra Sen): (a)(i) There was scarcity of cloth for a short period in both the thanas but there was hardly any scarcity of rice.

(ii) The wholesalers of these areas failed to lift their allotments in good time which resulted in temporary scarcity of cloth during the *Pujas*. The wholesalers of Tehatta police-station, however, lifted their allotments on 9th October, 1948.

(b) The subdivisional wholesaler imported cloth by road only on 4th October, 1948, after movement by wagons failed. As a result, movements in areas where communications were difficult, were delayed. Both these thanas depended only on movement by cart to cover distances from 30 to 60 miles.

(c) As a measure of relief, direct supply from Calcutta to the retailers of these areas was given on 21st October, 1948, and also an *ad hoc* supply from the seized stocks of Land Customs at Ranaghat. To prevent the recurrence of similar scarcity, the District Controller of Civil Supplies, Nadia, has been specially instructed to keep a close watch with a view to ensuring a regular supply of textile goods to these areas.

Point of Privilege.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Sir, before we proceed with the business of the House I rise on a point of privilege. There have been much sensation, panic and speculation over the incidents that occurred day before yesterday at Bashirhat thana, Dum Dum Aerodrome and the factory of Jessop & Co. and what happened yesterday in the district of Howrah. I request the Hon'ble the Premier through you, Sir, to take the House into confidence and through the House the people into confidence and to make a statement here stating what exactly happened so that the public mind may be properly educated in this matter.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Sir, I hope the member has read the Government Press-note issued yesterday and the day before.

We are still pursuing our investigations. We hope to complete them in a day or so. As soon as they are completed I shall take the House fully into my confidence and tell them exactly what we have found, but we shall go on in the meantime issuing press statements as far as we can find out about the details from day to day.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Through you I congratulate the Hon'ble Premier for what he has said but at the same time I want to point out through you that the Hon'ble Premier should have known by this time from his experience that whenever an incident like this occurs the House expects a statement from him. So, Sir, we hope he would come before the House as early as possible with a statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already given that assurance.

General Discussion of the Budget.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some newspapers of Calcutta have adversely criticised the budget and the budget statement which were presented this year and their attacks are directed mainly against the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker. These papers conveniently forget that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has performed his job admirably well as the agent of the party he has the honour to represent. This budget is the budget of the Congress Party and as the House and the country will see in course of the following few days the Congress Party will by their vote carry this budget part by part, clause by clause, item by item, sentence by sentence. My criticisms will, therefore, apply mainly to the Congress Party who in my opinion is hundred per cent. responsible for the budget and I shall refrain from making any personal reference to Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker except so far as it may be incidentally necessary.

The Hon'ble Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker has made a big grievance in his budget speech which he has presented on behalf of his party that people do not take an objective view of things. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will, in my own humble way, try to survey the background of his speech. Every one is aware that the Empire of Western Materialism is now divided against itself into two sharp distinct and hostile camps, namely, Capitalism and Communism. General Chiang Kai Shek the other day regretted his association with the Communist Party in China in course of his war against Japan. I have no doubt that time is very fast coming when the Anglo-American Axis will, in like manner, regret their association with Russia in their defence against Germany. Sir, the victors of war have organised a United Nations' Organisation ostensibly to end war and to ensure peace but in reality to secure allies for the next game and for a greater cataclysm. Sir, in their post-war reconstruction they are making secret preparations for another mass cannibalism. There is talk of a third war everywhere. In making preparations for that war England and America are trying their best to secure as many allies as they can. Very unfortunately the great Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and his great colleagues have dragged India definitely into the Anglo-American axis on the ground that in these days no country can remain neutral forgetting how Turkey, Spain and even a very small country, like Argentine retained their neutrality during the last world war. India has in accordance with her commitment made alliance and contracts with England and America and India is therefore bound to execute her part of the contract. The budget that has been presented here is in tune with the central policy of the Congress Party. Only the other day the Hon'ble Sardar Patel gave fullest assurance to the capitalists in his Madras speech. This budget gives complete assurance to the capitalists and attempts to restore their confidence and hope which according to the budget statement was disturbed by the

budget that Nawabzada Liaquat Ali presented in the year 1947. That budget had faint suggestions for nationalisation and socialisation of industry and that terrified the capitalists so much that after these years—1948, 1949—they have not yet been able to regain their nerve. In this budget over and over again assurances have been given to them. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister on behalf of his party makes another grievance that people generally run after slogans and "isms". The Congress Party had their own "isms" but "isms" that led them to power are no longer "isms" with them, but they are now "wasms" as a journalist the other day remarked. Sir, this is the background of the budget that has been presented here, and, therefore, a Finance Minister has got to faithfully implement to the wishes of the party in his budget. I must congratulate the Hon'ble Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker. He has done admirably well. In the budget statement the Hon'ble the Finance Minister on behalf of his party wants that we should offer him and his party constructive suggestions.

I must confess we are at a loss, for we do not know for what kind of economy he wants suggestions from us—for the kind of economy that we find in the budget or for really some other economy which would improve the living conditions of the people. It is said in the budget statement that people are impatient; it is not really so. So far as I have studied the people of Bengal, they are not impatient. Their heart and head are perfectly sound, unless we in our own interests go to them and create confusion in their mind. Sir, they do not want a Utopia in a trice. They are prepared to wait. If the Congress party is unable to present a five-year plan, let them come forward with a twenty-five-year plan. Even if they are unable in the present circumstances to come forward with a twenty-five-year plan for improvement of the lot of people, let them come forward with a 250-year plan. All that is necessary is that we must have a plan, a comprehensive plan, a picture easy to understand and see, for we are prepared to sustain ourselves in our present struggles in the hope of a definite future. It is here particularly that the country has the greatest disappointment. Sir, we are certainly not confronted with normal circumstances. The situation in the country is growing graver and graver every day, and our economic life is fast deteriorating. There is no doubt about it, but the question is not to take it as it is but to try as much as we can to improve matters.

I would refer to another great question which has found place in the budget statement, namely, matters relating to the refugees from East Bengal on which the Government of India and the Government of Bengal have spent crores of rupees. Sir, it is very unfortunate that this question has not yet been seen through proper perspective. It must be remembered that every living organism whether it be a giant or an elephant or some microscopic organism—each organism requires a specific space for its bare existence. A tiger, for instance, in the Sunderbans requires that space in which sufficient number of foodstuffs, deer and other things may grow and thrive. It is true that by improved methods of production this space ratio of man is daily shrinking and becoming smaller and smaller. Nevertheless at every point of time, for man as also in the case of other organisms a fixed space ratio is necessary.

When this fixed space ratio is disturbed and falls below the normal requirements then it throws off its surplus population and extra space will have to be found elsewhere as was the case with the people of England who found new space in Australia, America and South Africa and only in this manner peoples of over populated countries servive. On the other hand if the unbearable surplus is thrown back into the country of its origin then in the case of strong and independent countries there is war and in the case of dependant and weak countries there are famine, pestilence and disease for destruction of unbearable surplus. War in Germany and the famine in Bengal are recent illustrations of this truth.

After partition Muslims from Calcutta and other parts of Bengal have rushed into Eastern Bengal and also Muslims from Bihar and the United Provinces, Punjab, Sind and from other parts of India have rushed into Eastern Bengal. I am told that the population of Dacca which was before partition only 1,50,000 has now increased to a figure near about 5,00,000. Eastern Bengal is the most densely populated area in the whole world. Before the war the ratio was 900 per square mile; now it has considerably increased with the result that the pressure falls on the existing population, particularly on the Hindus who for political reasons are unable to adjust themselves with the new environment. They out of fear have left their hearth and home in search of food and space in West Bengal. This question cannot be solved by merely giving them monetary help from the revenues of the Government of West Bengal or from doles from the Government of India. To take a realistic view of things I am definitely of opinion that this question can never be scientifically tackled unless and until the two Bengals are united and her economy will never be sound unless and until she gets complete independence from the tutelage of Delhi and Karachi.

Sir, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister on behalf of his party has clearly stated that he is not prepared to accept in toto any of the "isms" that are now prevailing in the world. Sir, I agree with him. He has further said that he and his party are prepared to accept the good points of all "isms". What is significantly omitted is what are the good points of the "isms" according to the conception of the Congress Party and whether they are in a position to knit these good points into a concrete picture. These are the things which should have been clearly stated in the budget statement if it was meant to inspire real hope in the minds of the people. In this respect it appears to me that the budget and the budget statement are absolutely blank.

Sir, the Anglo-American power, the capitalist order of society are daily losing ground and their empire is daily shrinking while the forces of communism are spreading like fire and has almost touched the frontiers of India. If the Congress Party thinks that Communism is not acceptable to them, in that case they should clearly say why not. Some of the Hon'ble Ministers on the Treasury Benches take pride in calling themselves atheists and Father of Communism of India. Some have developed the habit of calling others religious-minded when anyone talks of religion and things like that. The country at the present moment does not really know the mind of the Congress Party in this respect. If we are really atheists and if we are hundred per cent. materialists in that case I do not appreciate why we cannot straightaway adopt the Communist philosophy of life as our own. If on the contrary we go to the capitalists, in that case in my opinion there was no sense in our struggle for attaining freedom and independence of India. Now, Sir, if we are to justify our struggle for independence and as our Finance Minister has mentioned in his budget speech, if we want freedom to touch our hearts then we will have to search our own minds and find out from there the true spirit of India and we must make well-planned schemes for implementing that spirit into our individual and collective behaviour. If we accept capitalism in toto in that case we must admit that not we but the white peoples of capitalism are best suited to execute their plan in India. If on the other hand we accept Communism in toto, then in that case also we must admit that not we but the founders of Communism are the best suited to execute their plans in India. I would therefore ask the Congress Party to stop deceiving their own minds and place before the country what they actually mean to do. Mere assurance that the Krishak-Praja party is coming to power in the near future as soon as adult suffrage is introduced is not enough. We have had bitter experience of enlarged franchise. Mere adult franchise will not help us very much if the people are not properly educated and for that we must have a plan and a scheme.

I referred, standing on a Point of Privilege, to the incidents that occurred the day before yesterday and yesterday and these incidents are occurring almost every day and the sense of security of the people is being day by day threatened. This menace cannot be stopped and checked merely by bullets, guns, Security Acts and prison; something concrete must be done. If the Congress Party which is now responsible for moulding the destiny of Bengal and India fail to give something concrete then merely talks won't help us very much.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget statement has referred to capitalists and to the shyness of capital. He has quoted certain figures and has admitted with frankness that capital is shy and production is not increasing. It is true that the total output of production of consumption goods have fallen, but what has been omitted in the budget statement is whether by this fall of total output in production the profits of individual capitalists have increased or not. We hear that the Americans in order to screw up their margin of profit and increase the total profit throw into the ocean the surplus production. Similarly, Sir, we are suspicious that the capitalists themselves are responsible for the decrease in production here. By controlling production and screwing up prices they are making considerable profits which they would not have been able to make if the prices fell and production increased. Whether our suspicions are justified or not, we would request the Hon'ble the Finance Minister on behalf of his party to satisfy us in this matter when he stands up to give a reply to our criticisms. With these words I conclude my criticism of his budget statement.

During the following days, Sir, when subject by subject the budget will come before us, we shall have enough opportunities to go into details. Before I sit down, I would once again request the Congress Party in all humility, since they are now in charge of my destiny, to reconsider their position and make a search of their own mind and shake off their present attitude. I know that in course of their struggle for independence they had suffered much and I do not grudge if after achieving independence they want to enjoy life a bit. But already one and a half years have passed since the attainment of independence and now they should cry halt and go back to their past. Now we find that in the heart of Calcutta Hon'ble Ministers are insulted in the public squares. They are now fighting shy to appear before the public. This is a very ominous sign. If the country had a clear perspective and had settled down to a definite "isms", then we would not have been so much anxious for a lead from the Congress. But unfortunately the country has not that mental preparation. So if the Congress party suddenly falls, then there will be nothing but chaos and confusion leading to untold sufferings of the people. For these reasons I would request my friends of the Congress party in all humility to kindly put their heads together and consult their headquarters and offer them sound and honest advice as to how the present situation can be properly tackled. I offer this advice to the Congress not for any love for the Congress but in the best interest of the country.

Maharaja SRIS CHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, as I was listening the other day to the remarkable speech by my Hon'ble friend, the Finance Minister, what struck me most was its refreshing and outspoken character, though a bit slightly unconventional. We are living at a time when men, materials and ideas change fast, and accordingly we should not mind even if a budget Minister speaks or talks about things in a manner which does not accord with orthodox canons or conventions.

Sir, in this part of the Indian Union we are confronted with a host of problems, and there is some justice in the contention that the soundness of financial policy in this province has to be judged, not by the results of the working of one year but by the cumulative results of the working of financial plans and programmes ranging for a number of years. There are in West

Bengal, as Sj. Sarker succinctly puts it, "the handicaps of the shrinkage of territory and of agricultural resources, the vast problems of refugee rehabilitation, and the problems inherent in a border province with extensive frontiers" with a foreign dominion. Famine, riots, partition and inrush of refugees from Eastern Bengal constitute indeed a formidable list: and if to this are added the ills due to the fine mess that the Union Government and its ideological counsellors including businessmen and labour leaders, have made of the capital and investment markets and of the prospects of an orderly industrial development, one can easily understand the worries of the Finance Minister of the most industrialised province of the Indian Union and his anxieties to refer to them with a critical mood.

Sir, there is therefore no wnoder that a not very thinly veiled conflict of personalities is noticeable throughout the tenor of the budget speech—that of Sj. Sarker the economist and industrialist, and Sj. Sarker the custodian of our finances in West Bengal. In his former capacity he has had to say things which it has been difficult for him to implement fully in his capacity as a member of the Cabinet. As such I think he has rather exposed himself to criticism for the incongruity involved. Sj. Sarker, for example, is disinclined to make a fetish of inflation *vis a vis* giving a stimulus to production, while he himself in his budget provided for new taxation which awkwardly enough will put more burden on industries. Then again, while he has advocated all along for more production with a view to combat inflation, his Government has practically done nothing, either to start industries by themselves or provide any lead towards co-ordinating the efforts of capital and labour so as "to set free the streams of business activity that now lie frozen under an icy load of suspicion and distrust". It will not do to say that this is primarily the concern of the Government at the centre. One should expect the provincial Government as well to go in for more ambitious schemes than merely budgeting for either an experimental exploitation of coastal and estuarine fisheries at Rs. 1½ lakhs or a minor rural electrification scheme at Rs. 21 lakhs and odd. It will appear from the list of capital outlay on industrial development taken up by the Government, that besides the State Transport Service taken up in Calcutta at the revised estimate of Rs. 51 lakhs in 1948-49 and an estimate of Rs. 76 lakhs for 1949-50 there is no other scheme worth mentioning at all. Even the State Transport Service appears more or less to be an experimental measure, not yet taken up with a whole-hearted energy.

The Government will have also to face a good deal of criticism in respect of the rather inadequate measures of relief envisaged in the budget for the refugees from Eastern Bengal. It certainly does not speak well of a Government which confesses that it was not fully prepared to meet the problem of so vast a magnitude, particularly when we have before us the example of East Punjab where vast streams of population migrated and prompt Governmental machinery was set up to cope with the problem in all its bearings including colossal measures of housing, re-settling and town-planning. We should also be interested to know the measures taken up to interest the Government of India, and if delays occurred, whether it was due to a lack of promptness on the part of the West Bengal Cabinet and a certain lack of vigour in putting the case effectively, before them.

Sir, there is also an impression that the Government of West Bengal could not do full justice to the Development Grants permitted by the Government of India, as a good portion of these grants lapsed either for want of schemes or for absence of proper machinery to implement the same. At a time when the province is in the direst need of rehabilitation and relief, these sins of omission are indeed serious enough to merit devastating criticisms at the hands of the public.

Sir, the prospect unfolded in the budget does not warrant us to be at all optimistic about the future of this part of the Indian Union, and rightly

enough the Finance Minister has warned us to be cautious and vigilant. There is no prospect either of improving our finances, till West Bengal is permitted by the Union Government her legitimate share of the income-tax and jute duty. We are indeed indebted to the Finance Minister for giving us a detailed account of the negotiations taken up by him with the Centre. The Finance Minister has a feeling and he has made no secret about it that on questions like these our case "does not receive adequate attention in Delhi". Well, Sir, it is serious indeed when sentiments like these have got to be publicly expressed. Nor does it seem to be healthy for the Indian Union itself that the Government at the centre are not at all amenable to logic and argument. I do hope that my honourable friend will not yield in this vital matter or relax his efforts till justice is secured and our finances are put on sure and sound footing.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It seems that the members are not willing to speak today. I think they are not prepared. If they so desire, I can adjourn the House. Is it the opinion of the House that the House should now adjourn?

(Cries of "yes" "yes".)

The House stands adjourned till 4 p.m. tomorrow.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 5-3 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the 1st March, 1949, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 1st March, 1949, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Sri ASHUTOSH MALLICK) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 58 members.

Questions.

(When starred Question No. 13 was called.)

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: Sir, the Hon'ble Premier has not been able to come here today. He is engaged in a conference. All the questions relating to his department may be held over

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right; the questions are held over.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Sir, may we know why the questions are being held over?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Because the Hon'ble Premier is absent.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Sir, the Hon'ble Premier frequently remains absent from the House and every time the questions are held over on the ground that Dr. Roy is absent. The first day when we assembled here the questions were all held over. If the Ministers continue to remain absent should the questions be held over every time?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This time questions are held over under unavoidable circumstances.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Through you, Sir, I would ask Government whether they are in a position to make arrangements for answering questions on behalf of the absentee Ministers.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall inform the Premier about this afterwards.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Yes, Sir. Some arrangement should be made. Either the Parliamentary Secretary or some other colleague of the Premier should undertake responsibility for answering questions if he frequently absents himself from the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall request him to do that.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Thank you, Sir.

General Discussion of the Budget.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: ভো: ভো: শ্রীপরিষদপাল মহোদয়ম্ মহাত্মন্ শৃণু ভবং—

Janab ABUL HASHEM: On a point of order, Sir. It appears that my honourable friend is speaking in Sanskrit. Is it permissible that he can speak in Sanskrit in this House?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think he is speaking in Bengali.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: No, Sir. ভো: ভো: শ্রীপরিষদপাল মহোদয়ম্ মহাভূন পৃচ্ছামি।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable member by speaking in Sanskrit is making a good case for himself. Undoubtedly Sanskrit is the language of scriptures of India. The Governor, His Excellency Dr. Katju, in his Nagpur speech advocated that Sanskrit should be the lingua franca of India. In that case I should like to know in what way it is out of order?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is easy Sanskrit. One who knows Bengali can understand this Sanskrit well.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: It is akin to Bengali.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right; you may go on.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Sir, a careful perusal of the budget statement reminds us of the local Bengali adage: "বান ভানতে শিবের গীত আর সাত কাণ্ড রামায়ণ পড়ে বলে নাকি সীতা রামের মা আর সূর্পণখা রাবণের স্ত্রী।"

Janab SYED BADRUDDUJA: On a point of order, Sir. Can the general discussion continue in the absence of the Finance Minister?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think somebody is taking notes.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: This is absolutely unfair.

Janab SYED BADRUDDUJA: Sir, the Hon'ble Ministers are not taking any notice of the House; otherwise the Finance Minister would never have been absent while the general discussion is going on. It is a most important subject.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking him to be present in the House. In the meantime discussion may go on.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Sir, I would suggest that if the Finance Minister is somewhere near the House and available at call, in that case the House should be adjourned for some time to give him an opportunity to be present. The House cannot be satisfied by the fact that somebody is taking notes. Sir, we would seriously request you to adjourn the House for such time as is necessary for the Finance Minister to be present.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He will be coming very soon.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: In that case I would submit that the House may be adjourned for five minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. Mr. Hossain, you may go on with your speech.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Yes. The ruling of the Chair is that I should go on.

Sir, shall I repeat what I said before?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, not from the beginning.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Sir, last year the Hon'ble the Finance Minister began his statement by saying "Today we breathe the air of freedom and the power to shape our destinies lies in the hands of our people" and he ended his political statement by saying "By insensate outburst of communal frenzy generated by pernicious two-nation theory and its attendant cult of hate have left behind a trial of misery too deep for words". In answer to these stupid and thoughtless statements I pointed out that freedom is a mockery which has not come to

him or any person at all. It has eluded his grasp. It has created a blood thirst against the opposite number which had no parallel in the world history. The savagery and brutality which was manifested on the occasion of obtaining the so-called accursed freedom is unthinkable. The massacre in Delhi by Nadir Shah, the Persian, pales into insignificance. Sir, I pointed out then that if in spite of the devilish acts our Hon'ble the Finance Minister is feeling the air of freedom he must be a mystery man who revels in devilish acts. This obtaining of freedom synchronises with the cold-blooded murder of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation which made us doubtful if we can retain the chimera of so-called elusive freedom. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister in his colossal ignorance of the lessons of history laid the blame on the devoted head of Quaide Azam and the two-nation theory propounded by him for the insensate outburst of communal frenzy. I pointed out in my speech then and there that any man having a grain of common-sense in him will hold the ideal of Hindu society responsible for the two-nation theory propounded and sponsored by Mr. Jinnah and his associates. It is the race arrogance and superiority complex as also intoleration of others which are responsible for the insensate outburst of communal frenzy. This race arrogance and superiority complex and intolerance of other Communities' systems of thoughts or religion manifested itself in the wholesale massacre and expulsion of Buddhists from the land of its birth long before the Pathans or Moguls or any other non-Indian nation or religion set their foot on the sacred soil of Bharatbarsa. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker failed to reply to these charges which were brought against him. On the other hand he now admits in his statement the truth of my observations. He says "I may submit when I look to our people and find that mental poverty, intellectual sterility and want of due regard for reality, doubt and misgivings haunt my mind and I am led to believe that to us freedom has come only to change the externals of our lives but has not been able yet to touch the deeper cores." I appreciate today the confusion which he has made in the budget statement presented by him in page 49. A perusal of further two lines will convince any one that the cry which came out from his heart that he was breathing the air of freedom is absolutely unreal and, if I am allowed to say, it is false to his knowledge and belief in the words of criminal law and jurisprudence. He had no word of reply on the point of my speech where I pointed out that the Hindu race arrogance, superiority complex and intolerance and hatred of other communities and their culture and religion is responsible for the two-nation theory sponsored by Mr. Jinnah and his associates. I adduced conclusive evidence that it is this race arrogance and it is the superiority complex, it is this concomittant hatred and intolerance of the existence of other communities which led to the massacre and expulsion of Buddhists from the sacred land of Bharatbarsha and the enslavement of the original inhabitants of India by the conquering Hindu hordes which led to treat them as so many beasts of burdens, dogs and cats and even worse. He has not replied either in today's statement or last year's statement because he has been convinced of the correctness of this historical background of this outburst of communal frenzy. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker, however, has stated today "Had it done so, I do not think that in judging Govedunment or public bodies, our people would have been guided by the same spirit of malevolence as used to inspire them in their dealings with foreign Government." Sir, again I beg to point out to him that our people are quite correct in judging him in the manner he has been doing. Sir, the gentlemen over there are worse than British Imperialists, despots and bureaucrats. It is to the Hon'ble Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker and his party that British Government has transferred power and they are their representatives just like Akbar who discarded Islam and declared himself representative of God on earth and the Hindus in one voice from Himalaya to Cape Comorin and from Chittagong to Kabul acclaimed him as "Dilliswaroba Jagadiswaroba". The motto of his religion

"Laelha Illelah Akbar Kaefetullah." That is to say he will rule India by divine right. This is Brahminism of the highest order as Rajput princes were all gods and their women were all goddesses.

Some belonged to Chandra Bansa and some to Surya Bansa, but Akbar was greater than all. He was the direct representative of God on earth. In order to satisfy the Hindus he tabooed the very name of Muhammad and converted many a mosque into temples. Well, what power did the British wield? Certainly it was imperial and despotic power. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the gentlemen over there having stepped into their shoes have become the successors in interest of the Britishers and are treating the people in the same haughty conquering temper, and even they are worse. If a slave becomes the master, he at once becomes Abu Hossain and treats his people in a spirit of contempt. Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Hon'ble Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker should not be sorry for it but he should proceed to put them behind prison bars, chain them like slaves and try to bring wicked fellows to their senses. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister says, "Slogans must undergo a change."

Sri ANANDILAL PODDAR: On a point of order, Sir. Has it any sense?

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Whatever the Finance Minister says has a sense but what others say is nonsense to you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Sir, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister is the chief exponent and a great teacher in the art of uttering slogans. Why should he change, Mr. Deputy Speaker, owing to my trenchant criticism? Mr. Sarker has come to realise that freedom is a mockery and that it was far better to remain under the dominance of the paternal British Government than of persons to whom they have delegated their power. Though he has left Freedom and Jai Hind, he is still donning in one's ears that his Government is a national Government and his State is a secular State. Both these statements are incorrect. His State is a নির্বাচিত কংগ্রেস State and the Government is also নির্বাচিত কংগ্রেস Government. I protest against using the term "secular and national". To say that the State is secular or that the Government is national is a hypocrisy of the first magnitude. Let me explain what I mean. I mean that there are very few people who have actual, real and potential faith either in Hindu or any other religion, but people who are born in one society or other call themselves Hindus or Muslims and follow the culture and rituals of that religion. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, one of our greatest leaders and the pride of womanhood in India, said after the 14th of August, 1947, "The boot of history is now on the other leg. We are now heading for a new synthesis in the culture of the United Provinces in which the Hindu culture will be the dominant partner." And now the resurgent culture of those who possess 86 per cent. of the United Provinces has inevitably become the culture of the State. (Mark the word "State".) So it was that saffron-robed pundits chanted Vedic hymns from the various corners of the Durbar Hall in United Provinces' Government House as the clock struck 12 on the night of August 14. Not only this. When a ship was launched at Visagapatam the same class of saffron-robed Brahmin pundits chanted Vedic hymns with the accompaniment of the sounding of conchshells and ঘোষ and বম।

Sri ANANDILAL PODDAR: On a point of order, Sir. Is the chanting of Vedic hymns in the United Provinces Government House relevant in connection with this budget discussion?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think if he says so he is irrelevant. No doubt if there is anything objectionable in his speech I remind the honourable member that that will be expunged.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Sir, I shall be the first person to advocate it. If there is anything wrong or indecent, that must be expunged. But if it is only a reference to a speech made by our great leader Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, then I think it is quite right.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. You go on with your speech.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Sir, not only that. In the Government House in Calcutta Saraswati Puja was performed and Kirtan was sung. This will conclusively show that it is a Hindu State and not a secular State in the sense that Russia is. No other State in the world is secular in the world excepting Russia. Mr. Deputy Speaker, they have said that this is a national Government. I beg to point out with all the emphasis I can command that it is not a national Government. Muslims and others have been totally excluded from the Government. If the Muslims and others are part of the same nation certainly it is not a national Government. Then what sort of Government it is and for whom this Government is run. It is a Government of so-called নির্বাচিত কংগ্রেস কর্মী and is run for them and not for others. Therefore I shall be extremely happy, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you ask them to name this so-called Government as নির্বাচিত কংগ্রেস Government for the নির্বাচিত কংগ্রেস কর্মী. This will set at rest all the troubles of naming this Government. The poetic vision of Her Excellency Mrs. Sarojini Naidu has thus caught the sight of a historic phenomenon which missed the sceptical view of Pandit Nehru. The Nightingale of India admits in clear language the spirit of Hindu revivalism lurking behind the so-called national movement of India. She says, when in the later twenties, the tempo of freedom struggle slowed down, the latent antagonisms of the two revivalisms yoked to the national chariot came to the surface and they broke apart. Thus suddenly the non-co-operation movement burst on the Indian scene like a mighty storm. Indian nationalism adopted the culture and symbols of the community which manned its anti-British struggle in various parts of India. Therefore the culture is Hindu culture. We who have elected to stay or reside in the Indian Union have absolutely no objection even if you convert the Government House into a temple provided we are allowed to live in peace and safety and make what contribution we can to the safety and development of the State. In return for our loyalty we must be allowed to participate in the Government, in the administration and defence of the State. The Muslims are a loyal people and they will joyfully, wholeheartedly and devotedly co-operate with you as a junior partner in the composite nation, but they must be given their dues. But if instead of doing so, Mr. Speaker, if they jeopardise their interests, if there be level best attempts to convert them into hewers of wood and drawers of water and deny them trade facilities, deny them agricultural facilities and due share in the administration and Government and you throw them to the wolves, no good will come out of it. This is in reply to the statement which the Hon'ble the Finance Minister introduced in the budget statement.

Now, I come to the actual budget itself. (Laughter.) As a Finance Minister he had no business to make such a statement. Coming down to the budget itself, I protest against allotting funds for the settlement and rehabilitation of refugees. I must point out that it is you who have tempted them to come here by offering them leadership, offering them lands, offering them employment, service and contracts. I met men of East Bengal—young men—they were all very sore over this matter. They pointed out and they said to me that had they not been offered these temptations, they would have accommodated themselves in their own ancestral places in any way they could. This had a bad effect on the morale of the original children of the soil of West Bengal. The outsiders are being settled to the detriment of the original children of the soil.

Then as regards assistance to নির্বাচিত কংগ্রেস কর্মী *it is* notorious that the vast majority of the unemployed joined the movement. Now, everywhere in towns and villages and cities there has come a serious split among the Congressmen and the so-called নির্বাচিত কংগ্রেস কর্মী have been let loose and they are making lots of money in various ways which I need not mention here. To grant pension from the tax-payer's money is a breach of trust and shall be disallowed. This is an agricultural country and 90 per cent. of the people are maintained directly or indirectly from agriculture. Under such circumstances, we should take our lessons from the history of economic development of European countries. We will find that they have weathered the storm by adopting agricultural and industrial co-operation.

(At this stage the red light was lit.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I draw your attention to the red light. Your time is up.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Very well, Sir.

Sri DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the budget speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker has come upon as a pleasant surprise. If there is one factor which has been haunting this province of West Bengal like a nightmare for several years past, it is that of a heavy deficit in the budget. This year, therefore, when through his budget statement the Hon'ble the Finance Minister announced that that heavy deficit has been brought down so low as in the region of Rs. 1 crore 11 lakhs, we all felt happy. The credit for this goes to him. He deserves our congratulations and I am sure he has got it in an abundant measure.

We—and when I say "we" I mean patricularly the labouring classes—we realise the difficulties of the Finance Minister of West Bengal, of this new province which has undergone a shrinkage in territory with the consequent loss in revenue under many heads—a province which is faced with a colossal refugee problem and a province to which even the Centre does not seem inclined to do justice in the matter of allocation of income-tax and jute duty. I will not, therefore, particularly on behalf of labour, like to say anything about the allocation of money under particular heads. We realise that it is an emergency budget and, therefore, we shall have to tolerate many things. But what worries me and what will particularly worry the working classes is the general remarks and the philosophy underlying those general remarks which the Finance Minister has tried to propound through his statement—a philosophy which I would say seeks to safeguard the interests of a particular section of the people, I mean the rich. There is a remarkable difference between this year's budget statement and the last year's budget statement. Last year the whole emphasis was upon the common man. I quote from his statement— the whole emphasis was on "the common man with a view to bring into his life the bracing air of peace, prosperity and happiness". We were happy. But this year the quintessence of his general remarks and his philosophy is this that the rich shall remain rich and the poor shall remain poor. We are acquainted with this attitude from ages past, but when such a remark comes through a financial statement we feel dismayed. We feel that it is not for one year only that the labour will be denied or the peasant will be denied or the middle class will be denied, it is a permanent philosophical attitude which puts forward for us no hope either for the present or for the future. I would like, Sir, to bring to the notice of this House through you the remarks in the financial statement, particularly with regard to the theory of equality. That theory has been given to us not by the Socialists, neither by the Communists. It has come to us through the Congress ideology, through Mahatma Gandhi, through the various resolutions taken by the Congress in its various sessions. In the

statement that theory of equality has been branded as a dogma—and that too a false one. The interpretation given to the theory of equality is one which we cannot accept. I am not talking of what its application is in the political sphere but in economic sphere in this statement the interpretation that has been given is this that it means a certain minimum standard of life for all. I do not think that the theory of equality means that. If it had meant that, it would be a caricature of equality. It would then mean that if the minimum comes to Rs. 55 as it now exists in and around Calcutta in most of the important industries, then after that the whole business community will be permitted to amass as much money as they like giving us only Rs. 55 per month. The theory of equality certainly does not mean that. Certainly we have not understood it to be so. Certainly when the Congress preached it, when Mahatma Gandhi preached it, when the Congress resolution preached it, it did not mean that. It has been said in the financial statement that by equality it mean only "levelling up" and not "levelling down". I beg to submit, Sir, that this is not a correct assumption. It means both levelling down and levevlling up. For no one would think that you can bring up the minimum standard to a level which the business magnates are now enjoying in India. That is an impossibility. So there must be a levelling down and levevlling up too. The standard which the labourers enjoy, the standard which the middle class people are now getting must go up and the standard which rich people are enjoying must be levelled down. Otherwise there would be no sense in preaching the theory of equality. Otherwise we will be lagging behind the Congress ideology as it has been preached only recently in the Jaipur session. The Congress has gone a little further. It has said that its objective is the establishment of a classless democratic society. I am sure the idea that has been aired through the statement does not convey the spirit of the message that was passed in the Jaipur session of the Congress. Certainly we agree with the Hon'ble the Finance Minister that neither the standard of living nor economic recovery of India, of our country can come without production and more production. No section of the people is more passionately desirous of having more production than the labouring class. For by producing more they create a background on which they can get more for themselves and over and above that they get the additional satisfaction that their country, their beloved country will become rich and glorious. We therefore want more production, and that is why the labourers last year did not go on strike. Even the Finance Minister has admitted that there has been less number of man-days lost to industries during the period January 1948 to September 1948 as compared with the loss of man-days to industries for the corresponding period in the previovus year. The reduction in the loss has been by 50 per cent. That is a proof that the labour or the working class has realised the responsibility which has befallen them under present emergent circumstances. I think there is truth in it, that the output is not commensurate, that the number of hands employed has increased particularly in some industries as has been referred to in the statement, namely, the coal industry, but there has not been increased output so much. But why is labour taken to task for that, as has been done by the Finance Minister? Are there no other factors working? Has the Finance Minister taken into consideration that the labourer also is a human being and has got a physychology as soft and delicate as any other section of our people? Has he taken into consideration that in the coal industry the surface labour even today gets a basic minimum wage of 8 as. per day and with the other allowances added together he cannot earn more than Rs. 1-9 per day? Assuming that he is given work for 26 days in a month which is not always the case he can only earn to the extent of Rs. 42 per month. Is that sufficient? Has he taken into consideration the housing condition under which the workers live? They cannot be called houses. They are dungeons. Where not more than two people can live 20 to 30 people are pushed together—both men and women not always relatives of the men. Has he taken into consideration

that particularly in the coal industry there is a bottleneck? There is a shortage in the supply of wagons, that collieries are not properly worked and that even though labourers are present they cannot get work. Has he taken into consideration that in every industry the machineries are old and antequated and worn out? Has he taken into consideration, lastly, that the management everywhere with some few exceptions is inefficient, arrogant and unsympathetic? Last year during my visit to Europe and America I found that there was a move there for raising the cry for more production but, at the same time, raising the cry for more efficiency in the management. I think it is more true for this country and I would appeal to the Government to appoint a committee to go into this matter of efficiency and infficiency of the management of our industries, and I am sure many things will come out. Without doing that is it proper to put the whole blame for this matter of output on the shoulders of labour alone? But that is the case now. Everywhere throughout the country the pressure and the cry for more production is on the labour. The labour must produce more, and if the result is not satisfactory the fault is theirs. There is a ceaseless war of nerves against the labour. I say, Sir, there are other factors and they must also be taken into consideration. It has been said in the financial statement that capital, new capital, is not coming forward for new investment, even though it is an admission of the financial statement that there has been no decrease in the rate of dividend.

What are the causes, Sir? There is vague apprehension about the future. There is the taxation system of the Central Government. There is the talk of nationalisation and all elements of uncertainty that hang about it and therefore capital does not come forward. Cannot labour also say so, Sir, that we are not getting our share; we are not getting our housing accommodation; we are not getting our wages and therefore we will not come forward? But as a matter of fact labour has shown more sense of responsibility than the capitalists. What for is not this capital coming forward and when it does not come forward what does the Government do? Its attitude towards the capitalists is like that of an old mother towards her new born baby. It calls capital shy. But, under the same circumstances, I am sure labour would have received another kind of treatment. It would have been called anti-national; it would have been called breakers of peace and what not. Personally I feel that there is a big conspiracy on the part of our business magnates to intimidate the National Government and to bring it down to their point of view, and if the Government yields to them I am sure it will be bad days for us. Sir, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has said that under the present background we should not speak for any section; we believe in that. But, I am sure he himself has not followed this advice he has given to us.

In conclusion, Sir, I would like to say that labour will be content under the present emergeent circumstances not to demand anything anew if the Nation cannot give that and if the country cannot give that, but labour lives on a philosophy. If you take that philosophy out of its hand then it will be difficult to keep labour contented, then we will be ourselves preparing the background which will pave the way for the advent of a crisis stupendous in dimension and which will swallow all of us.

Janab ABDUL WAHEED SARKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to make just a few remarks on the budget statement presented to the Assembly by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. Unfortunately this is deficit budget. This is not the first time that a deficit budget has been presented on the floor of the House. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister, moreover, hopes that it will be possible to cover the deficits substantially if the two Bills proposed to be introduced into the Assembly shortly are passed into law. So far so good. I deem it my duty to compliment the Hon'ble Minister on the able manner in which he has handled the finances of the Province. The reductionn by the

Central Government of the share of this Province, in the divisible pool of income-tax and the proceeds of jute export duty has been a source of great embarrassment in the adjustment of the finances and has necessitated the submission of a proposal to enhance the entertainment tax, to revise the agricultural income-tax and to amend the sales tax. All these measures are sure to prove highly unpopular. It is however possible to increase substantially the receipts, if the tax collecting machinery be suitably improved. Tax evasion is a favourite game in our public finance and if the tax-dodger can be brought to book it may not be necessary to tap new sources of taxation.

Sir, this is the second budget presented to this Assembly after attainment of Independence. But, unfortunately, it does not bear the impress of any attempt for alleviating the ills from which the common man is suffering. There is no indication of any measures having been devised to combat inflation and the spiral of rising prices. Blackmarket goes merrily and the people, particularly those in rural areas are the worst sufferers. Supplies are short, there is terrible shortage of food and clothing everywhere. To add to the difficulties of the people, outturn of crop has been extremely meagre this year due to deficiency of raintall and I request the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to look into the matter. Ours is an essentially agricultural country but save and except the Damodar Valley Scheme, which is still in its embryo, no comprehensive irrigation scheme designed and suited to the condition of agricultural lands of Western Bengal has yet been devised. The result is that, exposed to the vagaries of the weather, large tracts of land suffer from drought every year resulting in heavy losses to the poor agriculturists and also to the Provincial Exchequer in that the shortage of harvest has to be made up by import of foodgrains from outside at an enormous cost. "More Porduction" whether in the field of agriculture or in the field of industry should be our watchword and the only sure way of stepping up production of foodgrains is by the provision of a well-planned irrigation project for the entire province without which there can never be any improvement in the condition of the peasantry. I desire to emphasise that to make the "Grow More Food" campaign really effective the first and foremost step that has to be taken is to make provision for irrigation of lands. There being no such provision so far the Hooghly District is concerned, it may be called a land of chronic famines. In any programme of agricultural development, irrigation comes first, seed, manure, and other things next. So far I remember, a survey was carried out in the Burdwan and Hooghly Districts as to whether it was possible for the water of Damodar river to inundate the fields and to flow into the Ganges but nobody knows the result of the survey. Like so many other surveys and reports, the papers have been consigned to the dusty almirahs of the Secretariat. So long as the present state of things is allowed to continue the agriculturists who form the backbone of the country will have a precarious existence and the prosperity of the countryside will ever remain an unrealised dream. Distribution of seed and manure is also faulty in the extreme and there is much room for improvement in this respect. I myself am having painful experience of the working of the Government seed and manure stores year after year. The Province of West Bengal is, as everybody is aware, dry and not lowlying. To ensure the reaping of full harvest, comprehensive short-term irrigational projects should be launched. These projects would supplement the work of Damodar Valley Corporation when the same materialises and is put into operation.

Sir, under the head "Education" we find no provision has been made for making primary education free and compulsory. People who are groaning under taxes are being made to pay the education cess, at an exorbitant rate but the schools proposed to be started under the scheme are not yet functioning. The number of these schools must be increased considerably.

Serious and genuine attempt must be made to banish the appalling illiteracy in the land. The problem must be seriously tackled. Mere tinkering will not do. The pay of the primary school teachers must be raised and they should be given a living wage. Then again no sufficient provision has been made for the education of backward communities, particularly the Muslims, who are unfortunately still lagging behind, in the sphere of education. Sir, one should naturally expect a liberal provision for the education of backward communities from a veteran and a broadminded Minister of Sri N. R. Sarker's stature and standing. We have been sorely disappointed in that respect. Sir, another retrograde measure is the abolition of the Hooghly Islamic Intermediate College, which is the only institution of its kind in this province, where Islamic culture is taught to students. It is a pity that the axe should have fallen on this useful institution and the Muslims of West Bengal should be deprived of the means of acquiring knowledge in Islamic studies and culture. Then again the name of the Islamia College has been changed into Central Calcutta College consequent on its conversion into a non-denominational college. But, sir, it would have been in the fitness of things if the college had been named after Serajuddowla, the last independent king of Bengal, who is admired, loved and respected by Hindus and Muslims alike. Further, it would have been an act of grace if 85 per cent. seats in this college could have been reserved for Muslim students.

Sir, under the head "Medical" we search in vain for a suitable provision in the budget for the eradication of malaria which is responsible for dreadful wastage of man-power in this province. This is all the more regrettable as at the present moment we have as our premier a medical man of the highest eminence. There is also no comprehensive programme for the improvement of the physique of the young hopefuls of our country. If physical culture is neglected in this way, on whom are we to depend for the defence of the country?

Sir, before resuming my seat I would like to invite the attention of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to the glaring disparity in salaries drawn by the different cadres of officers under the Government. Sir, we used to be very vociferous in our condemnation of the British rule as being a top-heavy administration. We have achieved independence but if we are to lay our hands on our own conscience, can we say that we are free from that vice? In England no public servant or labourer, however low he may be, draws less than 200 pounds yearly and no employee, however highly placed, draws a higher annual emolument than 5,000 pounds so that the ratio of the salaries of the highest and the lowest officials is as 1:25 whereas in our country the ratio is something like 1:300. In a country like India where the average annual earning of the inhabitants does not exceed 50 to 60 rupees and where more than one half of the population does not get two square meals a day, it is the height of arrogance if the officers of the State are paid fat salaries at the rate of thirty to forty thousand rupees a year. In this connection I am reminded of the observation of a certain member of the Central Legislature who while discussing budget provisions enquired whether the teachings of Mahatmaji had been put into cold storage for all time to come. Example is better than precept. So my point is that the administration should be run on the cheapest lines consistent with efficiency; otherwise the common man will have no confidence in the so-called popular Government. A glance at these figures will suffice to conclude that if the salaries of these highly paid officials be brought down to a reasonable level, a considerable number of low paid employees may be benefited by a slight increment of their pay out of the savings thus effected.

In this way the bogey of strikes which are often held up before our eyes can be minimised to a great extent, much to the relief of the apprehensive public.

Sir, it has been noticed that in the execution of development projects when the services of foreign experts are requisitioned, they have to be paid at an exorbitant rate. But what shall we say of those experts who though belonging to our own land demand the same emoluments as the foreigners do? My point is that our administration should be run with an eye to economy so that we may not lend ourselves to the reproach that we ourselves used to hurl at our alien rulers.

Sir, with these words I beg to resume my seat.

Sri KUBER CHAND HALDAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot but congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for the troubles he has taken to place the budget before the House. But this budget, I think, is not in consonance with the requirements of the present situation in West Bengal. It is not possible for me to point out all the defects and omissions. That which strikes me most is placed for your consideration.

In my opinion inflationary situation is the root cause of all the evils in the country. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister in his speech points out that "there will be no cure for inflation unless production is increased". This may be theoretically true but in practice it is otherwise. If this sort of theory is allowed to continue I think that the economic situation as it obtains in the country will not be improved even in 20 years. The Government should see that the purchasing power of the individual is checked, productive power cannot compete with purchasing power. The convertible system of notes should be introduced and this leads to the fact that the national wealth in form of gold and silver and other valuable metals should be introduced in place of papers.

Sir, we always associate the name of Bapuji, the father of the nation, but we do not follow the principles laid down by him. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister says in his speech that we have got no definite scheme—but may I remind him that the only definite scheme for the purpose is the abolition of the zemindari system. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister expects much revenue from the Excise Department. But why the prohibition scheme is not introduced though the Government wanted to do that and make a scheme—so to say in the districts of Malda and West Dinajpur.

Sir, the bureaucratic Government has disappeared and National Government has stepped in. But it is regrettable that the spirit of bureaucratic Government is still in vogue. The Government desires that the people should co-operate with the Government but when co-operation and co-ordination are given the so-called police machinery is reluctant to take it for reasons best known to that department.

There is an universal cry that the police misbehaviour should be checked and it should be done in fact. As an illustration, in police-station Farakka in the district of Murshidabad the officer-in-charge Ananta Lal Ghosal assaulted and insulted one Congress worker Niranjan Misra in his attempt to stop the smuggling and further I beg to state that he fearlessly snatched away the Congress badge and trampled it down. I referred the matter to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department but sorry to say no action is being taken and no reply has been given.

Besides, I am compelled rather to illustrate further with another example of administration at Jangipur. The Sub-Magistrate Sri Gangaprosad Basu insulted and threatened one police case witness who happened to be a Congress worker and underestimated the Congress workers by using unparliamentary words, such as thieves, rogues, etc., in open court and the matter is reported to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department.

Murshidabad district is famous for silk, bell-metal, lac and blanket. I invite the attention of the Government for the improvement of these

industries. No supply of coal is arranged for the bell-metal industries a Jangipur and the Kansaries to purchase coal at Rs. 4 per maund fro the dealers of sericulture department illegally.

In the Murshidabad district there is only one college at Berhampore I draw the attention of the Government to furnish the district with on more college at Jangipur.

As regards Scheduled Caste education, the fund that is allocated t them in current year is much below expectation and more regrettable is tha the money has not yet been distributed amongst the Scheduled Cast students.

I draw the attention of the Government to improve the lot of the passe compounders in comparison with the untrained male nurses.

The district board of Murshidabad is found negligent in discharging it duties and so I request the Government to supersede it and to make necessar arrangements for repairing the roads, etc.

Murshidabad is a deficit district. Rice and paddy come from Birbhum I appeal to the Government to withdraw the cordoning in the district o Birbhum to supply rice in the district of Murshidabad.

Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the budget speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has been received with a good deal of criticism by the press and the public. While some commended it for its frank exposition of the finances of the province and an attempt at stabilising it, others have criticised it strongly for providing no amenities for the people. To me it seems he has given out the naked truth and has drawn out a true picture of every home in Bengal and the life of a common man who can hardly make his both ends meet. It is in fact a true reflex of the condition of her people.

He has drawn a realistic picture and has not minimised the difficulties. But the people so long looking forward for some relief are sadly disappointed. For this mutilated province with its multifarious problems of refugees, food shortage, scarcity of cloth and the rising spiral of prices of all articles of necessity, there is hardly anything which bespeaks of a bright future.

There was a note of optimism, promises of development and future improvement in the last year's budget. But it is only an attempt to balance our wants this year. It is rather disappointing to find that while there has been a fall in revenue, the expenditure has gone up. The administration expenses - the legacy left by the predecessor Government has been not only maintained but fresh additions have been made. Directorates and Secretariats are daily increasing, but in spite of that there is no return to old time efficiency.

This can in my opinion be remedied by applying the pruning knife and reducing the expenditure either by abolition or by amalgamating several of these. Otherwise there will be no co-ordination and no effort at co-operation amongst the various departments. It is frittering away our energies and no schemes can be given effect to so long as this system is maintained. Although I would have liked the total abolition of the Civil Supply Department, there is also much room for economy and improvement in the ever-increasing demand of this department. By retrenching the staff and running it in a businesslike way we can hope to make a saving of at least half its expenditure.

The Commissioners of Divisions hold sinecure jobs and it will not affect the administration in any way if these offices are abolished altogether.

Turning to the positive side of the budget we do not find anything which gives us some satisfaction. True, a certain amount has been provided for development, but this does not touch even a fringe of the problem. The Hon'ble Minister has been honest enough not to hoodwink us by providing

money in ambitious schemes and then not spending the money at the end of the year. The grants under the several items are very modest but in trying to tackle the refugee problem he has neglected Communication, Education and Health. We talk of "grow more" and "produce more" but we have not made substantial provision for them. There is no scheme for improvement of agriculture or industry, although a little initiative on the part of Government will encourage the people to launch undertakings in furtherance of the cause of industry. The possibilities of silk, sugar and cotton are great and while other provinces are making rapid strides we are lagging behind. Communication which is one of the primary elements of developments has been sadly neglected. Sums spent on this account are negligible. The progress of a province depends mostly on its facilities of communication and unless we seriously think of improving our means of communication it is idle to talk of rehabilitation, of schemes of rural development and health and sanitation. The local bodies with their limited resources can hardly meet their wants and it is idle to expect them to maintain the roads in good order unless the Government comes forward with liberal grants. If we want progress we must not only improve the district and inter-district roads but also pay more attention to the feeder roads in the villages.

If we can retrench our expenditure and can get a fair share of jute duties and income-tax we may turn the deficit into surplus and there will be no necessity for enforcing the new impositions. But there is no definite scheme and we are not proceeding according to plan. This is what is retarding our progress and in spite of all our cries we are far behind other provinces.

If instead of spending our energies and resources over the maintenance of inefficient and useless establishment these expenses are cut down and a systematic plan is followed, Bengal will be on the path to progress and prosperity and ere long its financial stability will be restored. There is nothing to be despaired of. The province has great possibilities and resources and if we can utilise them fully, we will march on towards our goal of economic freedom.

Janab S. M. ABDULLAH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was expected by each and everybody in this House and outside that the budget of a National Government must clearly give the people the perspective of a revolutionary change, a complete break from the inglorious past. It will lead the country towards economic freedom and economic upliftment of the general mass of people and will give a clear picture of the economic, social and cultural upliftment of the country. But to our utter disappointment we find that the present budget of the Government of West Bengal is as stereotyped as the other budget presented under the British regime. It is a budget which does not reveal the mind of the Ministry clearly nor does it concord with the programme and policy of the Congress. Nor does it let us know definitely what policy and programme they propose to follow in regard to some of the most important matters that are engaging the attention of the general public today after the achievement of freedom, namely, nationalisation of steel, iron, electricity and jute industries, abolition of permanent settlement. A careful study of the budget gives one an impression that it was nothing more than an attempt to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. We must not forget that India means the peasantry and the labourers and to the extent we raise them and satisfy their wants, we will succeed in our task. But unfortunately beautiful language is the only homage that has been paid to the masses through the budget speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister.

Sir, the total revenue receipt and revenue expenditure in the budget are of the order of 31·83 and 32·93 crores, respectively, against the corresponding figures of 30·58 and 30·82 crores in the revised budget of the

current year. This, in effect, reveals a deficit of 1 crore and 11 lakhs which is proposed to be covered by imposing sales tax on newspapers, medicine, mustard oil, etc. I cannot praise the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for the method he has applied for wiping out the deficit. In order to balance the budget of the Government the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has imposed taxes on the bare necessities of life. But in doing so did he ever think about the miserable plight of hundreds and thousands of our countrymen—the poor half-starved peasants and labourers? Did he ever think in his mind how these poor half-starved multitude, would balance their own budget? Did he ever care to look after these things? I don't think he did. I do not, however, think that a Minister belonging to the Congress Group in drawing up his budget should neglect the masses—the cultivators who are the backbones of the nation. I want an answer to this question from the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. Vehement criticisms have already been made in the press and on the platform against imposition of sales tax on the daily necessities of life. By imposing this tax Government have lost their reputation. Besides, it will have an inflationary effect which, it is the intended policy of the Government to check. In this connection I suggest that Government will reconsider this matter in the light of the circumstances prevailing in the country and try to meet the deficit in the budget by appealing to the Central Government for some monetary grant for the current year, or Government can make up the deficit by curtailing some other expenditure which is not at all necessary in the current year.

Sir, I have analysed briefly the accounts of the previous year. In regard to expenses in the present budget I have noticed that there has been a very large increase in expenditure on some particular heads of expenditure. If this expenditure is excluded from this year's budget, in that case even without imposing any new taxation the budget can easily be balanced. If the following items along with some other expenditure which is to be spent in excess of the previous year, namely, Divisional Commissioners one and a half lakhs, Subdivisional Officers 6 lakhs, Calcutta Police 40 lakhs, District Police 30 lakhs, Fishery Department 34 lakhs—the total expenditure in the present budget for the above items goes to about 1¼ crores—are excluded from this year's budget, then it will be easy for the Government to balance the budget without imposing any tax.

In the matter of agriculture and irrigation a little more money has been sanctioned in proportion to what was spent during the last year. It is nothing more than an attempt to capture the imagination of the people without any real intention for doing anything beneficent to the people. India is mainly an agricultural country and agriculture takes a most important place in the economic life of West Bengal. It provides occupation for more than 65 per cent. of the total population of West Bengal, but we notice with sadness in our heart that no concrete plans or suggestions for the betterment of the conditions of these poor cultivators who are groaning under the heavy burden of zemindari system have been made by the Finance Minister. Nor did he think proper to utter even a single word about the abolition of the zemindari system from West Bengal in his budget speech. It has long been admitted by all sections of the people, the Congress, the Muslim League and even the zemindars themselves that the zemindari system must go for the greater interest of the country and the land should be distributed by the Government direct to the kisans, because it has not only deprived the peasants of their legitimate rights and claims but it has also caused serious loss of revenue to the Government. The Britishers have left the country, but this obnoxious system of land tenure still exists. This system established in 1793 is eating away the comfort and happiness and the very life-blood of the cultivators, and yet it has not been abolished. Speaking at a meeting of the Textile Workers Union at Allahabad, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has said "we are all along talking in terms of Swaraj. Swaraj means nothing if there was no economic

betterment of the people". It is a sad irony of fate that our Government have kept the economic programme in the cold storage. I think the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will give his opinion in the matter and enlighten the members of the House and the country as to the steps he is taking for the immediate abolition of the zemindari system in West Bengal and as to what is the policy of the Government in this particular matter which affects the entire Bengali nation and upon the abolition of which, I should say, the prosperity and well-being of the entire Bengali nation depends.

Sir, it is very difficult to be convinced that a poor province like West Bengal in the midst of economic and financial difficulties must spend a huge sum of more than Rs. 50 lakhs annually over the pay of I. C. S. men, Secretaries, etc., and Rs. 6 lakhs over the pay of the Governor and his establishment. It is a tragedy of fate that the I.C. S. officers are still drawing the same pay and allowance which they used to draw during the time of the British rule. Is there any valid reason why the rules made for the I. C. S. men under the British Government prescribing the salary of the I. C. S. officers should be regarded so very binding upon the starving people of India? There is no earthly reason why the I. C. S. officers should be paid in the old scale fixed by the British Government and in my humble opinion it is criminal in a country like India to allow anybody more than Rs. 700 per month from the Governor at the top down to Sub-Deputy Collector. While the Government pleads retrenchment of a large number of low-paid employees and proposes to bring within the orbit of sales tax mustard oil, newspaper, coal etc., in order to balance its budget it has not curtailed the salaries of the I. C. S. officers. We are surprised to find that among all the individual items of expenditure the largest sum goes to the Police. As against 4·02 lakhs to be spent for Police for the next year, the allotment for education is only 2·94 lakhs.

In this connection I like to mention that Government instead of reducing the number of police force have increased the strength of the police force. What are the reasons for this even after the achievement of freedom? We are utterly disappointed in our expectation and it shows that the Government have no confidence in the people and hence they go on increasing the strength of the police force. What is the use of going on increasing the police force incessantly in a free country? You must earn the confidence of the masses and vice versa and peace will come automatically. So I advise the Government that if you want to bring about peace instead of increasing the number of police force you must seek the co-operation, of the public, make contact with the people, try to feel the pulse of the masses and see what way the political atmosphere of the country is going. You are committing a great mistake by applying the police force to put down people's movements. Instead of increasing the police force and incurring extra expenditure you may with that extra expenditure raise the pay of the low-paid police staff. It is a shame and criminal wastage of public money on the part of the Government of a free country to pay Rs. 3,000 to the head of the police force where the poor police constables are drawing Rs. 50 or Rs. 55 including dearness allowance. You know that the price of every commodity has gone up 20/25 times. Taking this into consideration you must fix a minimum salary for each and every policeman if you want to check corruption from this particular Department. As a matter of fact after the achievement of freedom corruption is on the increase. They cannot but take recourse to this because they are poorly paid. The minimum salary of a Government servant must not be less than Rs. 100 in any Government office.

Janab HUSAN ARA BEGUM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall be very brief as there have been already many speeches on the different aspects of the budget.

I am standing here representing the cause of my dumb sisters who are rotting in the *bustees*. Calcutta which prides as being the second London of the East or the second city of the British Empire is at the present moment in the grip of poverty and disease. What poor impression will those who visit this city and its *bustees* have of India even after the achievement of Independence. Everybody was hoping that the condition of every Indian will be better off and the *bustees* will be improved in every way. But what is the condition of Calcutta even now? People are lying on the streets and diseases like cholera, plague and smallpox are taking away a great toll of human lives and at the present moment cholera is taking a greater toll. Besides these Government is to take into consideration the tuberculosis question. Of course tuberculosis hospitals are increasing and those at Kanchrapara, Jadavpur and other places are taking cases but still it is unmanageable and there are many women T. B. patients at the present moment. Many such women come to me and I direct them to the hospitals but the hospitals cannot accommodate all the cases and those poor people who cannot be admitted into such hospitals have not the means to have treatment elsewhere. Government should look into the root cause of all these diseases which in short is due to poverty and insanitary conditions. Regarding *bustee* dwellers many promises have been made but even now their condition is not only bad but worse and this is due to the influx of people into Calcutta from Eastern Pakistan. Sanitation is poor; the number of water taps is not at all sufficient and even the tube-wells are not workable. The poor people are all huddled together and there are too many people in one house. Sometimes the Governor or other high official pays a visit to these *bustees* and at that time the real deplorable condition of the *bustees* is not shown to them and a show is put up that the conditions are not so bad and they are not shown round all the places. It is only a social worker who has been in the slums and who has worked for those who live in the *bustees* who can understand the feelings of the poorer classes, how they are huddled together and even now the conditions are the same as before. There was a time when the Calcutta public and tax- payers had a claim on the Calcutta Corporation to look into their grievances but since the Corporation was superseded and it came under Government control with a high Government official at the top the people cannot approach the higher authorities at the present moment whereas at that time there were the the new planning of India. Sir, the backbones of the Indian population are Calcutta Corporation and they could at least press the claims of the *bustee* dwellers to improve the sanitary conditions, water-supply, etc., but now there is only one high authority of Government and these people cannot have access to him. Girls' education in the *bustees* during the Corporation regime was not neglected and education problems were given more attention day by day. Every year they provided more sums for the *bustee* schools. But at the present time if you look at the *bustee* schools their condition is worse than in 1937. No new school has been opened and those that are there are being neglected. In giving this brief sketch of the condition of the people in the *bustee* areas, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I must say that education is the foremost problem at the present time, especially in the new planning of India. Sir, the backbone of the Indian population are those children who will be sitting in our places one day and who are the cream of the nation. So it would be a criminal folly to neglect their education especially at the present time.

Now, Sir, I do not wish to deal with capitalism, but I find there is still a vast difference between the rich and the poor. Those who are living in mansions under electric fans and with ice at their command cannot understand the sufferings due to the poverty of those people who are living in hovels, although they, the poor, are in absolute majority.

With regard to medical aid I find that Government have made arrangement to allot additional grants for hospitals, but these are not sufficient to

meet the needs of the present moment, especially with regard to the mothers of the future nation of India. There is great need at the present time for more maternity hospitals as there is too much of overcrowding in hospitals of confinement cases to which notice has been drawn before.

Coming again to the question of education, Sir, I wish to stress the point that education of children should be given in their mother-tongue. I am sorry to point out that in the Sakhawat Memorial Girls' High School which has been under Government grant and which is the only school imparting education to Muslim girls the majority of whom speak Urdu as their mother-tongue. They were deprived of their right of having education through the medium of Urdu but now I am thankful that through the kindness of the Hon'ble the Education Minister this has been rectified. I may be permitted in this connection to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that some deputationists met him on behalf of the Sakhawat Memorial Girls' High School's bus drivers who were discharged without notice for many accidents had occurred through the negligence of those bus drivers. ....(at this stage the member reached her time-limit and resumed her seat).

(The House was then adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

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Srijukta BINA BHOWMIK : মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়! এবারকার মাননীয় অর্থ সচিব মহোদয়ের বাজেট বক্তৃতা যে অন্যান্য বৎসরের চেয়ে অনেক অন্য রকম হয়েছে এটা সকলেরই চোখে পড়েছে। বিভিন্ন বিভাগের কার্যকর্ম ও নীতি সম্বন্ধে অর্থ সচিবের বক্তৃতায় সাধারণতঃ যে আলোচনা থাকে আমাদের অর্থ সচিব মহাশয় তার মধ্যে এবার বিশেষ যাননি, সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভাগের মন্ত্রীদের জন্য তা রেখে দিয়েছেন। নিজে তিনি প্রধানতঃ সমগ্র দেশের অর্থনৈতিক সমস্যা ও তার সমাধানের উপায় নির্দ্ধারণে মনোযোগ দিয়েছেন। তাই আজকের বাজেটের সাধারণ আলোচনায় বিভিন্ন বিষয় সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ কিছু আমিও বলব না। অর্থ সচিব মহাশয় দেশের বৃহত্তর সমস্যা সম্বন্ধে যে আলোচনা করেছেন সে সম্বন্ধেই কিছু বলব। আমাদের অর্থ সচিব মহাশয় শুধু যে একজন প্রতিষ্ঠাবান ও অভিজ্ঞ ব্যবসায়ী ব'লে পরিচিত তা নয়, অর্থনীতিতে অভিজ্ঞ ব'লেও তার একটা নাম আছে। অতএব তাঁর বক্তব্য অবশ্যই প্রণিধানযোগ্য।

অর্থ সচিব মহোদয়ের বক্তৃতা শুনতে শুনতে অনেকেরই মনে হয়ে থাকবে যে তাঁরা কি কংগ্রেস মন্ত্রীর বাজেট বক্তৃতা শুনছেন, না শিল্পপতি ও বণিক সম্প্রদায়ের কোনও মুখপাত্রের বক্তৃতা শুনছেন। বক্তৃতার মূল সুর শুনে অনেকেই আশ্চর্য্য হবেন, কারণ তাঁদের পক্ষে বিশ্বাস ক'রে ওঠা শক্ত যে কংগ্রেসের অর্থনৈতিক ও সামাজিক দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী আমাদের দেশের বণিক সম্প্রদায়ের দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীর সঙ্গে এক হয়ে গেছে। অর্থ সচিব মহোদয়ের মতে দেশের এখন প্রধান সমস্যা উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধির। উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি করতে হ'লে চাই মূলধন। কিন্তু বণিক সম্প্রদায়ের উপর যে ভাবে করভার চাপানো হয়েছে তার ফলে এখন মূলধনের অত্যন্ত অভাব হয়েছে। অতএব এখন "gesture" হিসাবেও কিছুটা করভার কমিয়ে বণিক সম্প্রদায়ের বিশ্বাস এবং উৎসাহ ফিরিয়ে আনা উচিত। কাজেই তার মতে বণিকদের উপর বর্ত্তমানে করভার বাড়ানো তো উচিতই নয়, বরং কমিয়ে দেওয়া দরকার। কিন্তু শাসন কার্য্য তো চালাতে হবে, তার খরচ আছে। সে খরচ কমাবার যে কোনও সম্ভাবনা নেই, বরং তা বেড়েই চলেছে; তা আমরা বাজেট-বরাদ্দের মধ্যেই দেখতে পাচ্ছি। অতএব এই খরচের জন্য মন্ত্রী মহাশয় তেল, কয়লা, কাঠ প্রভৃতি নিত্য প্রয়োজনীয় দ্রব্যের উপর বিক্রয়-কর বসিয়ে গরীবদের উপর করভার বাড়াবার ব্যবস্থা করেছেন। Betting এবং Totalisator tax আরও বাড়ানো যেত, কিন্তু তা হয় নি, কারণ তাতে বোধ হয় অর্থ সচিব মহোদয় আশঙ্কা করেন যে ধনীদের উৎপাদনের আগ্রহ কমে যাবে। তা ছাড়া অর্থ সচিব মহোদয়ের মতে ধনিকদের উপর লোকে মিথ্যাই রাগ করে। প্রকৃত অর্থে ধনী আমাদের দেশে—শুধু আমাদের দেশে কেন, সারা পৃথিবীতে এমন কি আমেরিকায় পর্য্যন্ত আজ নেই বললেও চলে। কাজেই সাম্যের মিথ্যা ধুয়া তুলে বাতাস ঘুলিয়ে তুলে লাভ নেই। এ ছাড়া এই কয় বছর নাকি "there has been a redistribution of income in favour of the agricultural and working classes," কিন্তু এদের টাকা জমাবার অভ্যাস একেবারেই নেই

এবং এর ফলেও মূলধনের অভাব আরও বেড়ে গেছে। অতএব আর বেশী টাকা তাদের হাতে দিয়ে লাভ নেই ক্ষতি তাদেরও কল্যাণ হবে না, দেশেরও কল্যাণ হবে না। এখন কেবলমাত্র দেখতে হবে যাতে ধনিক, শ্রমিক ও অন্যান্য জনসাধারণ সবাই মিলে উৎপাদন বাড়াবার জন্য চেষ্টা করে। এই হ'ল মোটামুটি তাঁর বক্তব্য। উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি যে আজকে দেশের একটি প্রধান সমস্যা সে সম্বন্ধে কেউই দ্বিমত হবেন না। কিন্তু অর্থসচিব মহাশয় তার সমাধানের জন্য যে উপায় নির্দেশ করেছেন তা কতটা গ্রহণযোগ্য তাই বিবেচ্য। আজকে যে মূলধন পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না তার কারণ যে করভার-প্রপীড়িত ধনিক সম্প্রদায় তার মূলধন খাটাতে পাচ্ছে না এ কথাটা অনেকেই বিশ্বাস করতে চাইবে না। কারণ ধনিক সম্প্রদায়ের হাতে যে টাকা নেই একথা ধারণা করা শক্ত। Income-tax যত বেশীই হোক তার জালে ধনিক সম্প্রদায়কে পুরোপুরি আটকে ফেলবার কৌশল আজও যে এদেশের সরকার অন্ততঃ আয়ত্ত করতে পারেননি একথা তো অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের অজানা থাকবার কথা নয়। কি ভাবে লাভের টাকা capitalএর খাতে চালান ক'রে dividendএর অংশ কম দেখানো হয়, কি ভাবে বৎসরের পর বৎসর মিথ্যা Balance Sheet দেখিয়ে এবং চোরা কারবার ক'রে সারা দেশজোড়া ধনিক সম্প্রদায়ের লোভের তাণ্ডব লীলা চলছে, তাও অর্থসচিব মহোদয় আমাদের চেয়ে ভাল করেই জানেন। আমাদের প্রধান মন্ত্রী পণ্ডিত জওহরলাল পর্যন্ত বলেছেন যে কাপড়ের control উঠবার পর কাপড় কলের মালিকরা ১০০ কোটি টাকার উপর চোরাকারবারেতে লাভ করেছে। অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ও তার বক্তৃতায় এ-সব একেবারে অস্বীকার করেননি। তবে সেখানে তিনি মনুষ্য চরিত্রের অবনতির দোহাই দিয়ে নিষ্ক্রিয় থাকতে চেয়েছেন। কিন্তু আমরা বলব মনুষ্য চরিত্র যদি এইই হয় তবে দেশের সরকারকেও সেটা বুঝেই ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে। আসল কথা আমরা অনেকেই মনে করি Tax কমিয়ে ধনিক সম্প্রদায়কে তুষ্ট করবার মত অবস্থা আজ দেশে মোটেই হয় নি। এটা শুধু ধনিকদের সরকারের দুর্বলতার সুযোগ নিয়ে একটা চাপ দেবার চেষ্টা মাত্র, এবং ঐ ফাঁদে স্বাধীন ভারতের কর্ণধারেরা পড়বেন না ক'রেই আমরা আশা করি। গত যুদ্ধের পর দেশের ধনিকেরা আরও ধনী হয়েছে, শ্রমিকরা আরও দরিদ্র হয়েছে একথাটাও আজ সুস্পষ্ট হিসাবের ব্যাপার। অর্থসচিব মহাশয় নিজেও বলেছেন—"In practically the whole of the private sector wages have lagged behind the cost of living index" এ সত্ত্বেও শ্রমিকদের হাতে আজ বেশী টাকা চলে গেছে অর্থসচিবের ভাষায় তাদের favourএ incomeএর redistribution হয়েছে, এমন যুক্তি তিনি কি ভাবে দিলেন তা আমাদের বোধগম্য নয়। যে সামান্য মজুরী বৃদ্ধি হয়েছে, সেটা যে আজকের মূল্যবৃদ্ধির অনুপাতে অনেক কম এবং মানুষের মত বাঁচতে হলে একটা minimum standard যে জনসাধারণের প্রয়োজন এবং সে standard যে আজ দেশে নেই, একথা নিশ্চয়ই অর্থসচিব মহোদয় অস্বীকার করবেন না। কিন্তু তাঁর বক্তৃতায় ধনিক সম্প্রদায় তার reward পাচ্ছে না, এধরণের ক্ষোভ যদিও প্রকাশ পেয়েছে কিন্তু দেশের শ্রমিকও তার প্রাপ্য যে পাচ্ছে না, এ উক্তি কোনখানেই খুঁজে পাই নি। তাঁর মতে দেশের দারিদ্র্য দূর করবার একমাত্র উপায় উৎপাদন বাড়ান। কিন্তু উৎপাদন বাড়লেই যে দারিদ্র্য দূর হয়, এ বিশ্বাস করবার কোন সঙ্গত কারণই আমাদের নেই। এই দেশেরই গতযুদ্ধের সময়কার অবস্থার কথাই ধরা যা'ক। তখন উৎপাদন প্রচুর বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছিল ধনিকদের লাভের সীমা পরিসীমা ছিল না। তাসত্ত্বেও শ্রমিকদের আয় মূল্যবৃদ্ধি অনুপাতে বাড়ে নি। এখনও দেশের সমস্যার সবটুকুই যে উৎপাদনের অভাব তাই বা বলা চলে কি করে? দেশের লোক মূল্যবৃদ্ধির জন্য কাপড় পরতে পারে না, অথচ কাপড়ের কলগুলিতে কাপড় স্তূপাকার হয়ে জমে রয়েছে, আর বহু মিল কাজ বন্ধ করে দেবে বলে হুমকি দিচ্ছে। এর পরেও লোকে কি করে বিশ্বাস করবে, উৎপাদন বাড়লেই দেশের লোকের দুঃখ ঘুচবে? এই প্রসঙ্গে একটা ছোট গল্প মনে পড়ছে:—

"A miner's son asked his mother: 'Why don't you light the fire? It is so cold.'

'Because we have no money to buy coal. Father is out of work.'

'But why is he out of work, mother?'

'Because there is too much coal.'

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আমার এতগুলো কথা বলবার উদ্দেশ্য শুধু এই যে আজকের সমস্যার প্রতিবিধান শুধু ধনিক সম্প্রদায়কে উৎসাহ দিয়ে করভার কমিয়ে উৎপাদন বাড়াবার চেষ্টা করলেই হবে না। এ দেশের ধনিক সম্প্রদায়ের ঐতিহ্য কিছু গৌরবের নয়। গত দুর্ভিক্ষে বাংলার ৪০ লক্ষ লোককে যে না খেয়ে মরতে হয়েছে, তার জন্য এদের

দারিদ্র কিছু কম নয়। কাজেই উৎপাদন বাড়াতে হলে ধনিক সম্প্রদায়কে উৎসাহ দেবার জন্য প্রয়োজন নেই—ওরা নিজের গরজেই টাকা খাটাবে—দুদিন আগে বা দুদিন পরে। প্রয়োজন দেশের দরিদ্র মজুরের মানুষের মত বাঁচবার ব্যবস্থা করে দেওয়া। না হলে ধর্মঘট দাবিয়ে রাখার যত চেষ্টাই করা হোক না কেন—প্রকৃত উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি কিছুতেই হবে না। আমাদের অর্থসচিব মহোদয় খালি ধনিক সম্প্রদায়ের নিরাশা, অবিশ্বাস, আর অবসাদের খবর রাখেন কিন্তু শ্রমিকরাও যে আজ কতখানি বিক্ষুব্ধ আর হতাশ হয়ে পড়েছে, এ সম্বন্ধেও তাঁর পরিষ্কার ধারণা থাকা দরকার।

অর্থসচিব মহোদয় "Ismএর" ভীতি প্রকাশ করেছেন। কিন্তু তিনিও "ultimate Socialisationএর" কথা না বলে পারেন নি। তবে তাঁর মতে এখন তার সময় নয়—এখন Capitalistদের উৎসাহ দিয়ে উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি করে নিয়ে পরে Socialismএর কথা ভাবা যাবে। কিন্তু আমাদের প্রশ্ন—পৃথিবীর বহুদেশের অভিজ্ঞতা আমাদের সামনে রয়েছে; তা সত্ত্বেও কি আবার Capitalismএর সবগুলি stage ও তার সমস্ত evilএর মধ্যে দিয়ে আমাদের যেতে হবে? ইতিহাস থেকে আমাদের কি শেখবার কিছুই নেই?

পরিশেষে অর্থসচিব মহোদয়ের কিষাণ-মজদুর রাজ সম্বন্ধে ধারণার উল্লেখ করতে চাই। তিনি মনে করেন এখনি আমাদের দেশে কিষাণ-মজদুর রাজের ভিত্তি স্থাপিত হয়েছে, কারণ অধিকাংশ ভোটারই ঐ শ্রেণীভুক্ত, এই যুক্তিতে আমেরিকায় ও বিলেতে তাহলে বহু বছর ধরেই কৃষক-মজুর রাজ হয়েছে। বিলেতে চার্চিলী যুগ শুদ্ধ সারা Conservative শাসন যুগেও কিষাণ-মজদুর রাজই চলছিল। কিন্তু তাতে বিশেষ নিশ্চিন্ত হবার কিছু নেই। ও জাতীয় কিষাণ-মজদুর রাজত্বের কর্ণধারদের অন্ততঃ বিলেতের কিষাণ-মজদুররা সরিয়ে দেবার প্রয়োজন বোধ করেছিল এবং সরিয়ে দিতে সক্ষমও হয়েছে। যা হোক, এ দেশে কিষাণ-মজদুর রাজ প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়ে গিয়েছে বলে বিশ্বাস খুব কম লোকই করে থাকেন বলে আমার ধারণা। মাত্র কিছু দিন আগেই অকোলাতে রাষ্ট্রপতি ডাক্তার পট্টভিসিতারামিয়া বলেছেন—"সমাজের নূতন পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে আগামী পাঁচ বৎসরের মধ্যে গান্ধীজির আদর্শ অনুসারে এক রক্তপাতহীন বিপ্লব অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। তাতে দেশের গভর্ণমেণ্ট বদলে যাবে।" তিনি আমাদের তার জন্য প্রস্তুত হতে বলেছেন। আমরাও সেই বিপ্লবের আয়োজন ও প্রতীক্ষায় থাকব।

Sri KANAI LAL DE: উপ-পরিষদপাল মহাশয়, মাননীয় অর্থসচিব আগামী বৎসরের বাজেট উত্থাপন করে যে সুদীর্ঘ বক্তৃতা করেছেন তা যত্ন সহকারে শুনেছি। বাজেট প্রস্তুতের জন্য তিনি অসুস্থ শরীরেও যেরূপ পরিশ্রম স্বীকার করেছেন এবং প্রদেশের বিভিন্ন দিকে উন্নতি বিধানের জন্য ব্যবস্থা করবার যে চেষ্টা করেছেন যদিও তা গতানুগতিকতার সীমা অতিক্রম করে নাই তথাপি তাকে ধন্যবাদ জানাচ্ছি।

দেশের সমস্যা বহুবিধ, বিশেষতঃ খণ্ডীকৃত পশ্চিমবাংলার সমস্যা অতি জটিল। দুই-এক বৎসরের মধ্যেই দেশের বহুবিধ সমস্যার প্রতিকার করা সম্ভব নয় তা জানি, তথাপি বর্তমান বাজেটে পশ্চিমবাংলাকে বিভিন্ন দিক হতে পুনর্গঠিত করবার সুচিন্তিত পরিকল্পনার বিশেষ কোন আভাস পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না, এবং কংগ্রেসের বহু-ঘোষিত কৃষক-মজদুর-প্রজারাজ প্রতিষ্ঠায় জাতির জনক মহাত্মা গান্ধী পরিকল্পিত শোষণহীন শ্রেণীহীন সমাজ প্রতিষ্ঠার কিছু-মাত্র প্রচেষ্টা দেখা যাচ্ছে না। স্বাধীনতা লাভের পর হতে দেশে প্রকৃত স্বরাজ লাভ করবার জন্য এদেশের জনসাধারণ অতিমাত্রায় আগ্রহশীল ও অসহিষ্ণু হয়ে পড়েছে। দুই-এক বৎসরের মধ্যে সেই আশা-আকাঙ্খাকে রূপায়িত করে তোলা সম্ভব না হলেও স্বল্পকালের মধ্যে তাকে বাস্তবরূপ দান করবার জন্য যে ব্যাপক দূরদৃষ্টি নিয়ে গঠনমূলক পরিকল্পনা করার প্রয়োজন, বাজেট রচনার মধ্যে তার পরিচয় অতি অল্পই পাওয়া যায়।

বাংলার ধ্বংসপ্রায় পল্লীগুলির পুনরুজ্জীবন ও সংগঠনের জন্য বিশেষ কোন কার্যকরী ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা হয় নাই। পল্লীর শিল্প, পল্লীর স্বাস্থ্য, পল্লীর শিক্ষার উন্নতি করতে না পারলে পল্লীসমাজকে পুনর্গঠিত করা সম্ভব হবে না। এ বিষয়ে যেরূপ দৃষ্টি দেওয়া প্রয়োজন ছিল, যে পরিমাণ অর্থ ব্যয় করা উচিত, বরাদ্দ তার তুলনায় অপ্রচুর। ম্যালেরিয়ায় পশ্চিমবাংলার পল্লীগুলি উৎসাদিতপ্রায়, শিশু ও প্রসূতি মৃত্যুর হার ভয়াবহ, এর নিরোধকল্পে অবিলম্বে প্রতি ইউনিয়নে চিকিৎসাকেন্দ্র এবং অন্ততঃ প্রতি থানায় maternity ও child welfare clinic স্থাপন করা প্রয়োজন। এবিষয়ে বর্তমান বাজেটের ব্যবস্থা আশানুরূপ নয়।

বর্তমান বাজেটে উন্নয়ন (Development) বিভাগের বিভিন্ন শস্যের বীজ বিতরণ, বীজাগার স্থাপন প্রভৃতি বিভিন্ন খাতে গত বৎসর ৩০,৫৭,০০০ টাকার যে পরিকল্পনা ছিল, সংশোধিত বাজেটে ঐ বিভাগে মাত্র ৪৩,০০০ টাকা ব্যয় ধরা হয়েছে এবং আগামী বৎসরের জন্য উহা একেবারে পরিত্যক্ত হয়েছে, কোন টাকাই ধরা হয় নাই। অপর দিকে আমরা দেখছি—Ammonium Sulphate প্রভৃতি বিলিতি সার ক্রয়ের জন্য ৮৭ লক্ষ টাকা মঞ্জুর করা হয়েছে। যদি কৃষকদের বিভিন্ন শস্যের ভাল বীজ সরবরাহ করতে না পারা যায়

তবে শুধু সার সরবরাহ করলেই অধিক ফসল উৎপাদন সম্ভব হবে না। বিশেষতঃ ঐ জাতীয় বিদেশী সারের কার্য্যকারিতা সম্বন্ধে এবং জমির উপর ওর ভবিষ্যৎ ফলাফল সম্বন্ধে মতভেদ রয়েছে। দেশী প্রথায় সার উৎপাদন এবং সেই সার বিলির ব্যবস্থা করলে কৃষকগণের প্রকৃতই উপকার হবে। বিদেশী সার আমদানী করলে দেশীয় কৃষকের সাহায্য অপেক্ষা বিদেশী বণিকেরই সাহায্য বেশী হবে। কৃষি-কার্য্যের বিস্তার ও অধিক ফসল উৎপাদনের জন্য বেচের ব্যবস্থা ও সেচের পুষ্করিণী উন্নয়ন করার প্রয়োজনীয়তা বাঁকুড়া, বীরভূম ও মেদিনীপুরের জন্য অপরিহার্য্য।

বিক্রয়-কর হ্রাস করার কোন প্রস্তাবই বাজেটে নাই, বরং বাজেটের অব্যবহিত পূর্ব্বেই গৃহস্থের নিত্য-ব্যবহার্য্য বহু দ্রব্যের উপর বিক্রয়-কর ধার্য্য হয়েছে। বাংলা দেশের বিক্রয়-কর সম্ভবতঃ পৃথিবীর সব দেশের অপেক্ষা অধিক। আমেরিকার New york প্রভৃতি Stateএ বিক্রয়-কর শত করা ২৲ টাকা, ক্যালিফোর্ণিয়াতে শতকরা ২।।০, টাকা, ভারতবর্ষে মাদ্রাজে টাকায় এক পয়সা, বোম্বাই, বিহার ও যুক্তপ্রদেশে টাকায় দু পয়সা আর বাংলায় টাকায় তিন পয়সা অর্থাৎ শতকরা ৪।।৶০ আনা। দরিদ্র বাংলায় বর্ত্তমান উক্ত হারে বিক্রয়-কর জনসাধারণের অত্যন্ত পীড়ালায়ক। সরিষার তৈল, জ্বালানির কাঠ, কয়লা প্রভৃতির উপর বিক্রয়-কর চাপানো কোনমতেই বাঞ্ছনীয় নয়। সংবাদপত্র দেশে জ্ঞান ও শিক্ষা বিস্তারে বহু পরিমাণে সাহায্য করে। সংবাদপত্রের মূল্য একেই খুব বাড়িয়াছে, পুনরায় তাহার উপর বিক্রয়-কর ধার্য্য করা উচিত নয়। আমাদের দেশে শিক্ষাবিস্তারের বহু বাধা বর্ত্তমান। পাঠ্য পুস্তকের মূল্য হ্রাস করা প্রয়োজন; কিন্তু পাঠ্য পুস্তকের উপরও বিক্রয়-কর ধার্য্য করা হয়েছে; বস্তুতঃপক্ষে পুস্তকের উপর তিনবার বিক্রয়কর আদায় করা হয়—একবার কাগজের উপর, তারপর ছাপার উপর, এবং শেষবার পুস্তক বিক্রয়ের উপর। সরিষার তৈল, ঔষধ, পুস্তক প্রভৃতি বহু নিত্য-ব্যবহার্য্য দ্রব্যের উপর হতে বিক্রয়-কর একেবারে তুলে দেওয়া বাঞ্ছনীয়।

কয়েকটী জিনিষের উপর বিক্রয়কর ধার্য্য করা হলে জনসাধারণের বিশেষ কষ্ট হয় না, অথচ সরকারের রাজস্বেরও যথেষ্ট পূরণ হতে পারে। কলিকাতা হতে বৎসরে ১২০ কোটি টাকার উপর চাল ও ধলিয়া বিদেশে রপ্তানি হয়, এবং কয়েক কোটি টাকার চাও বিদেশে চালান যায় এদের উপর বিক্রয় কর ধার্য্য করলে ৭।৮ কোটি টাকা পাওয়া যেতে পারে। তাহলে মাত্র নিছক বিলাস দ্রব্যের উপর বিক্রয়কর বজায় রেখে গৃহস্থের নিত্য-ব্যবহার্য্য সমস্ত দ্রব্যের উপর হতে কর তুলে দেওয়া সম্ভব। আমি এবিষয়ে অর্থসচিবের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি। বাংলা দেশ খণ্ডিত হওয়ায় পশ্চিম বাংলা যুক্ত বাংলার মাত্র ১।৩ একতৃতীয়াংশে পরিণত হয়েছে, তথাপি পশ্চিম বঙ্গে কর্ম্মচারী পোষণের ব্যয় কমে নাই ও বরং বহুলাংশে বেড়েছে। বাংলা মহাকরণে কর্ম্মসচিব, যুক্ত কর্ম্মসচিব, উপ-কর্ম্মসচিব এবং অবর-কর্ম্মসচিবের সংখ্যা ক্রমশঃই বাড়ছে, এবং সংখ্যার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তাদের বেতনও স্ফীত হচ্ছে। অবিভক্ত বাংলায় যেখানে ২,৭৫০৲ টাকা বেতনে ৩ জন মাত্র কর্ম্মসচিব ছিলেন, বিভক্ত হওয়া সত্ত্বেও এক্ষণে তাদের সংখ্যা দ্বিগুণেরও অধিক হয়েছে। পশ্চিম বাংলায় ২টী মাত্র বিভাগে ৪ জন D. I .G. উপ-আরক্ষা পরিদর্শক নিযুক্ত হয়েছেন। এবং অন্যান্য বিভাগেও কর্ম্মচারীর সংখ্যা বেড়েছে। এবং বহু অনাবশ্যক কর্ম্মচারী রয়েছে, এবং ক্রমশঃ আরো নিযুক্ত হচ্ছে। পূর্ত্ত বিভাগে অধ্যক্ষ বাস্তুকার (Superintending Engineer) রাখার কোন প্রয়োজন নাই। কলিকাতায় মাত্র ১০০।১৫০ বাসের তদারকির জন্য ৩,০০০৲ টাকা বেতনে একজন পরিবহন অধিকর্ত্তা (Director of Transport) নিযুক্ত করার কোন প্রয়োজন দেখিনা। ঐ বিভাগে আরো কয়েকজন উচ্চ বেতনের কর্ম্মচারী আছেন। একজনমাত্র উপসমাহর্ত্তা (Deputy Magistrate) দ্বারা ঐ কার্য্য বেশ চলতে পারে। ইংরেজ রাজত্বের সময় হতে বিভাগীয় ভুক্তিপতি (Divisional Commissioner) পদ তুলে দেবার দাবি করা হচ্ছে কিন্তু এ পর্য্যন্ত ঐ অনাবশ্যকীয় পদ লোপ করার কোন ব্যবস্থাই হয় নাই। এইরূপ মাথাভারী (top heavy) শাসন ব্যবস্থা দেশের পক্ষে অত্যন্ত ক্ষতিকর। উচ্চপদস্থ কর্ম্মচারিগণের বেতন হ্রাস করা ও নানাবিধ ভাতা বা বিশেষ বেতন দেওয়া বন্ধ করা উচিত। বিভিন্ন বিভাগের কথা বিশেষভাবে বলতে গেলে পুঁথি বেড়ে যায়। দরিদ্র দেশবাসীর আর্থিক অবস্থার প্রতি দরদী দৃষ্টি রেখে কঠোর হস্তে ব্যয় সংকোচ করা একান্ত প্রয়োজন।

বস্ত্রবিনিয়ন্ত্রণের পর হতে গত এক বৎসর পশ্চিম বাংলার জনসাধারণ অশেষ কষ্ট ভোগ করছে। শোনা যায় বাংলা দেশে বহু হাজার গাঁট কাপড় মজুত আছে, তথাপি বস্ত্রের অভাবে এবং মূল্যাধিক্যে বাংলার জনসাধারণ অত্যন্ত পীড়িত হচ্ছে। বিভিন্ন জেলাতেও বস্ত্রের বণ্টন ন্যায্যভাবে হচ্ছে না। এবং বস্ত্রের মূল্য অত্যধিক ধার্য্য করা হয়েছে। বাংলা দেশের প্রান্তে বিহারে কাপড়ের দাম এখানকার অপেক্ষা অনেক কম। মানভূম জেলা হতে বাঁকুড়া জেলায় ঐ কাপড় এনে চোরা বাজারেও কম মূল্যে বিক্রীত হচ্ছে। নিত্য-ব্যবহার্য্য দ্রব্যের অত্যধিক মূল্য বৃদ্ধি ও বস্ত্রবণ্টনের শোচনীয় অব্যবস্থার জন্য আমাদের পক্ষে জনসাধারণের সম্মুখীন হওয়া কঠিন হয়ে পড়ছে। সুতরাং এবিষয়ে সরকারের অবিলম্বে অবহিত হওয়া প্রয়োজন।

দেশব্যাপী চোরা কারবার ও দুর্নীতি এখনো চলছে। সরকারী কর্মচারিগণের মধ্যেও দুর্নীতি দেখা দিয়েছে। বিশেষ তৎপরতার সহিত ইহা নিবারণের ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা প্রয়োজন। জঙ্গল নিয়ন্ত্রণ করার ফলে বাঁকুড়া ও মেদিনীপুর জেলার আলানি কাঠের মূল্য অত্যধিক বেড়েছে, কাঠও দুষ্প্রাপ্য হয়েছে। যাতে অবাধে কাঠ রপ্তানি করা না যায় ও জেলার প্রয়োজন মিটিয়ে কেবল মাত্র উদ্বৃত্ত কাঠই চালান দেওয়া যেতে পারে—সেইরূপ ব্যবস্থা করা প্রয়োজন।

নির্বাচনী ইস্তাহারের প্রতিশ্রুতিমত জমিদারী প্রথা বিলোপের ব্যবস্থাও এ প্রদেশে এখনো অবলম্বিত হয় নাই। মাদক দ্রব্য বিক্রয় ও ব্যবহার রহিত করা অত্যাবশ্যক। মাদক দ্রব্য সহজ-লভ্য হওয়ার ফলে দেশের বহুলোক ঐ কুঅভ্যাস ত্যাগ করতে পারছে না। ফলে সমাজের নৈতিক অবনতি দ্রুত বেড়ে চলেছে। সুতরাং মাদক দ্রব্য বর্জনের সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ অনতিবিলম্বেই করা প্রয়োজন।

যদিও আমাদের প্রদেশে অবৈতনিক প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা প্রবর্তিত হয়েছে, তথাপি প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা বাধ্যতামূলক না করলে এবং বয়স্কদের শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা না করলে গণশিক্ষার প্রসার হবে না। বাংলার জেলাগুলিকে ৫ অংশে বিভক্ত করে প্রতিবৎসর এক এক অংশে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা বাধ্যতামূলকভাবে প্রচলন করা প্রয়োজন। অংশীড়িত প্রাথমিক শিক্ষকগণের বেতন সামান্য বৃদ্ধির প্রস্তাব করা হয়েছে, কিন্তু তা যথোপযুক্ত নয়। এবিষয়েও আমি অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি।

কুষ্ঠরোগ নিবারণকল্পে যে অর্থ বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে, প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় তাহা খুবই অপ্রচুর। পশ্চিম বাংলার এক বাঁকুড়া জেলাতেই British Empire Leprosy Relief Associationএর Survey ও স্থানীয় চিকিৎসকগণের অনুসন্ধানে জানা যায় যে কুষ্ঠ রোগীর সংখ্যা প্রায় ৬৫,০০০। বীরভূম এবং মেদিনীপুরেও কুষ্ঠ রোগীর সংখ্যা কম নয়। বাঁকুড়ার গৌরীপুরে মাত্র ১০০ রোগী রাখবার নিমিত্ত একটী কুষ্ঠালয় স্থাপন করা হচ্ছে, প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় এটা অতি অকিঞ্চিৎকর। কুষ্ঠ রোগ নিবারণ ও এই রোগের বিস্তার রোধ চিকিৎসার জন্য বাঁকুড়ায় একটি গবেষণা চিকিৎসাগার স্থাপন করা একান্ত প্রয়োজন। এবিষয়ে আনুসঙ্গিক সমস্ত কিছুর ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য চিকিৎসাবিদ্যাবিশারদ প্রধান মন্ত্রীর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করি।

আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করার পূর্বে আমি আর একটী কথা বলতে চাই। যে প্রতিক্রিয়াশীল শক্তি জাতীয় সরকারকে বিপর্যস্ত করতে চেষ্টা করছে তাকে দমন করা যেমন অত্যন্ত প্রয়োজন, তেমনি অপর দিকে যাতে জনসাধারণের দরদ ও সহানুভূতি আকর্ষণ করা যায় এমনতর শাসন ব্যবস্থা এবং জাতিগঠনমূলক কর্মপন্থাও আশু অবলম্বন করা উচিত। আমি এবিষয়ে পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার ও অর্থসচিবের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করে আসন গ্রহণ করলাম।

Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOWDHURY : মাননীয় উপ-পরিষদপাল মহাশয়, স্বাধীন দেশের একটী চিত্র চোখের সম্মুখে রাখিয়া আমি গত বৎসর বাজেট সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা কালে কতকগুলি বিষয়ের অবতারণা করিয়াছিলাম। আমার পরিকল্পনাগুলি রূপায়িত হইলে জাতির কল্যাণ ও সুখ কতকাংশে বৃদ্ধি পাইবে ইহাই ছিল আমার আশা। কিন্তু সেই সকল পরিকল্পনা আজিও কার্য্যকরী হইতে পারিতেছে না এজন্য দুঃখ অনুভব করিতেছি। আমাদের নিষ্ক্রিয়তার মধ্যে তো কোনও গৌরব নাই। যাহা হউক আমার পরিকল্পনার একটী অংশ গ্রহণ করিয়া প্রাদেশিক সরকার অন্ততঃ কলিকাতা ডেণ্টাল কলেজটাকে নিজ পরিচালনাধীনে আনিয়াছেন জানিয়া অত্যন্ত আনন্দিত হইয়াছি।

১৯৪৯-৫০ সালের যে বাজেট মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী মহাশয় আমাদের নিকট উপস্থিত করিয়াছেন-তাহা হৃদয় অনুমোদন করতে না পারিয়া মনে দুঃখ বোধ হইতেছে।

এতদিন আমরা বলিয়াছি গ্রামই ভারতবর্ষের মেরুদণ্ড, গ্রামের উন্নতিতেই জাতির উন্নতি, গ্রামগুলিই স্বরাজের ভিত্তিভূমি। আমরা বলিয়াছি অসংখ্য বিপর্য্যয়ের মধ্যেও গ্রামগুলিকে বাঁচাইয়া রাখিতে হইবে, প্রত্যেকটী গ্রাম্য সম্প্রদায়কে এক একটী সজীব প্রতিষ্ঠান করিয়া তুলিতে হইবে, এই প্রতিষ্ঠান হইবে স্বয়ং সম্পূর্ণ সংঘ। বর্তমান বাজেটে পল্লী-উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনাগুলি সম্পূর্ণরূপে অবহেলিত হইয়াছে। চিকিৎসা ও স্বাস্থ্যকেন্দ্র স্থাপন, পানীয় জলের ব্যবস্থা, চলার পথ মেরামত ও শিক্ষা খাতে যে ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে, তাহাতে মনে হয় আজও আমরা আমাদের এক বৃহৎ জন-সমষ্টিকে দুঃখ, বিপদ ও মৃত্যু হইতে রক্ষা করিবার জন্য, অশিক্ষার অন্ধকার হইতে জ্যোতির্ময় পথে আনিবার জন্য মনোযোগী হইতেছি না।

১৯৪৮-৪৯ সনের বাজেটে যে পরিমান ঘাটতি হইবে বলিয়া অনুমিত হইয়াছিল, সংশোধিত বাজেটে ঘাটতির পরিমান তাহা অপেক্ষা ৫৪ লক্ষ টাকা কম দেখান হইয়াছে। ঘাটতি কম হওয়ার দরুণ আপাতঃ দৃষ্টিতে বাজেট প্রশংসনীয় বলিয়াই বিবেচিত হইতে পারে। কিন্তু প্রকৃতপক্ষে যেভাবে এই ঘাটতি কম দেখান হইয়াছে, তাহা

খুবই দুঃখজনক। যুদ্ধোত্তর পুনর্গঠণ পরিকল্পনার জন্য কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের নিকট হইতে কম টাকা পাওয়ার দরুণ সংশোধিত বাজেটে ব্যয় সংকোচ করিতে হইয়াছে বলিয়া অর্থ মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দুঃখ প্রকাশ করিয়াছেন। আর করিয়া গেলে ব্যয় সংকোচ যদি দুঃখ-দারিদ্র্য-পীড়িত জনসাধারণের কল্যান প্রচেষ্টাকে ব্যাহত করিয়াই করা হয়, তাহা হইলে আজিকার কংগ্রেস শাসিত স্বাধীন রাষ্ট্রের পক্ষে উহা গৌরবের হইতে পারে না। বিশেষ করিয়া ব্যয় সংকোচের নামে যখন বাজেটে আমরা জাতিগঠনমূলক পরিকল্পনাগুলিকে বাদ দিতে বা খর্ব করিতে দেখি, আর তাহার সঙ্গে সিভিল সেক্রেটারিয়েট, রেভিনিউ বোর্ড, জেলা শাসন প্রভৃতি বিভাগীয় কর্মকর্তাদের এবং মন্ত্রীদের জন্য চলতি বৎসরের সংশোধিত বাজেটে ২২ লক্ষ ৩ হাজার টাকা আরও বৃদ্ধি করিবার প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করা হয় এবং আগামী ১৯৪৯-৫০ সনে ১৯৪৮-৪৯ সনের তুলনায় এই বাবদ অধিক ব্যয়ের পরিমান ৩৭ লক্ষ ২৯ হাজার টাকাতে দাঁড়ায়, তখনই সমালোচনার কারণ হয়। ব্যয়ের কোঠায় গত বৎসরের চেয়েও এই অধিক বরাদ্দের অঙ্ক দেখিয়া জনসাধারণ যদি আমাদিগকে দরিদ্রের সুখ-স্বাচ্ছন্দ্য বিধানে উদাসীন বলিয়া নিন্দা করে, তবে আমরা কি উত্তর দিব?

টাকার অভাব আমাদের আছে ঠিকই, তাহার জন্য উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনাগুলিকে যথাসম্ভব দ্রুত কার্য্যে পরিণত করা সম্ভব হইবে না--তাহাও বুঝি। এই সব বিবেচনা করিয়াই প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় অনেক কম টাকাই গ্রামের স্বাস্থ্যকেন্দ্রগুলির জন্য, পানীয় জল সরবরাহের উদ্দেশ্যে এবং রাস্তার জন্য ১৯৪৮-৪৯ সালের বাজেটে মঞ্জুর করা হইয়াছিল। বৎসরান্তে সংশোধিত বাজেটে দেখা যাইতেছে যাহা মঞ্জুর করা হইয়াছিল তাহাও খরচ করা সম্ভব হয় নাই এবং দুর্ভাগ্যের বিষয় আগামী ১৯৪৯-৫০ সালের বাজেটে উহা আরও কমাইয়া ধরা হইয়াছে। দৃষ্টান্তস্বরূপ আমি মাত্র কয়েকটী মোটামোটা ব্যয় কার্পণ্যের কথাই এস্থলে উল্লেখ করিব।

গ্রামের পানীয় জলের ব্যবস্থার জন্য গত বৎসর যে স্থলে ৩১ লক্ষ ৪০ হাজার টাকার বরাদ্দ ধরা হইয়াছিল, সেস্থলে চলতি বৎসরে সংশোধিত বাজেটে খরচের অংশ ১৫ লক্ষ টাকায় আসিয়া নামিয়াছে এবং আগামী ১৯৪৯-৫০ সালে ঐ খাতে মাত্র ১৫ লক্ষ টাকাই দেওয়ার প্রস্তাব করা হইয়াছে, অর্থাৎ অর্দ্ধেকেরও কম করা হইয়াছে। তবে বলা যাইতে পারে যে উপযুক্ত পরিমাণ পাইপের অভাবে নলকূপ বসানো সম্ভব হয় না বলিয়া বেশী টাকা মঞ্জুর করিলেও খরচ করা সম্ভব হয় না। নূতন নলকূপ বসানো সম্ভব না হইলেও বহু অকেজো নলকূপ যাহা গ্রামে পড়িয়া আছে, তাহা re-sinking করিলে কাজে লাগিতে পারে। সেদিকে কি আমরা মন দিয়াছি? তাহার জন্য কি যথোপযুক্ত অর্থ বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে? নলকূপের পরিবর্ত্তে পুষ্করিণী সংস্কার করিয়া অথবা ইঁদারা খনন করিয়া পল্লী অঞ্চলে পানীয় জল সরবরাহের জন্য কি সচেষ্ট হইয়াছি? স্বাস্থ্যকেন্দ্রগুলির জন্য গত বৎসর পরিষদ যে স্থলে এক কোটী ৩ লক্ষ টাকা মঞ্জুর করিয়াছিল, সে স্থলে সংশোধিত বাজেটে খরচের অঙ্ক আসিয়া নামিয়াছে মাত্র ৩০ লক্ষ ১৮ হাজার টাকায়। কাজ ত্বরান্বিত করার জন্য গ্রামবাসী অনেক দাতা বারো-তেরো লক্ষ টাকা সরকারকে দান করিয়াছেন। শুনিয়াছি স্বাস্থ্যকেন্দ্র নির্মাণের জন্য একদল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারও নিয়োগ করা হইয়াছে। কিন্তু আগামী ১৯৪৯-৫০ সনে যেখানে ১৯৪৮-৪৯ সনের তুলনায় বেশী খরচের বরাদ্দের আশা করিয়াছিলাম, যেখানে ১৯৪৮-৪৯ সালের তুলনায় আরও অনেক কম টাকা ধার্য্য করা হইয়াছে।

পশ্চিম বাংলায় সেচের জল সরবরাহ একটী বড় সমস্যা। জমিতে জল পাইলেই ফসল হয়। মাঠে বড় বড় দীঘি ও পুষ্করিণী বহু পুরাকাল হইতে সেচের জল যোগাইয়া আসিতেছিল--এই মজাহাজা পুষ্করিণী সংস্কারের কাজে ১৯৪৮-৪৯ সনের ২০ লক্ষ টাকার বরাদ্দ ৭ লক্ষ টাকায় আসিয়া সংশোধিত হইয়া আগামী বৎসরের বাজেটে একেবারে বিলুপ্ত হইয়া গিয়াছে। ইহা নাকি unproductive। এতদ্ভিন্ন অধিক উৎপাদনের ব্যবস্থা যেখানে সকলে অত্যাবশ্যক মনে করিতেছি সেখানে আগামী বৎসরে উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধির কার্য্যে অপরিহার্য্য সেচ ব্যবস্থার বরাদ্দ ১৯৪৮-৪৯ সনের প্রাথমিক বরাদ্দের প্রায় অর্দ্ধেক করা হইয়াছে, গ্রামের রাস্তার দুরবস্থা সর্বজন-বিদিত। Petrol tax Fund হইতে কতকাংশ রাস্তা মেরামতের জন্য জেলা বোর্ড ও মিউনিসিপ্যালিটির মারফতে খরচ করা হয়। ১৯৪৮-৪৯ সনে ১০ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইলেও কিছুই করা হয় নাই। সংশোধিত বাজেটে তাহা শূন্যতায় পরিণত হইয়াছে এবং ১৯৪৯-৫০ সালে মাত্র ২ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। মাল-মসলার দাম এবং মজুরীর হার যেভাবে বাড়িয়াছে তাহাতে এই ২ লক্ষ টাকায় গ্রাম্য রাস্তা মেরামতের কাজ যে কতটুকু সম্ভব তাহা সহজেই অনুমেয়। আরও অনেক বিষয়ই এইরূপ উল্লেখযোগ্য আছে, কিন্তু সময় সংক্ষেপ বলিয়া বিরত হইতেছি।

আয় কম হইলেও নূতন করধার্য্য বা ব্যয় সংকোচ করা বা উভয়ই করিবার ব্যবস্থা করিতে হয়। মাননীয় অর্থ মন্ত্রীমহাশয় এই উভয় পন্থাই গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন। কিন্তু ক্ষেত্র নির্বাচন উভয়ত্রই ঠিক হয় নাই। বিক্রয়কর, আয়কর প্রভৃতিতে সরকারের প্রাপ্য অংশ যে যথাযথভাবে আদায় হয় না তাহা সুবিদিত। গত বৎসর বিক্রয়কর

খাতে যে পরিমাণ অর্থ পাওয়া যাইবে বলিয়া আশা করা গিয়াছিল, বৎসরান্তে আদায় তাহার চেয়ে ১ কোটি ৩০ লক্ষ টাকা বেশী হইয়াছে দেখা যায়। কিন্তু বাজারে প্রকাশ্যভাবে ক্যাশ মেমো না দিয়া এবং বিক্রয়কর আদায় না করিয়া খোলাখুলিভাবে যে কেনাবেচা হয়--তাহার অনেকাংশ সহজেই বন্ধ করিতে পারা সম্ভব। তাহা হইলে বোধ হয় এই পথেই সরকারের আয় ১ কোটি টাকা বাড়িতে পারে। সাদাপোষাকে দুচ্ন মন লইয়া কয়েকজন কর্মচারী বাজারে ঘুরিলে সুফল ফলিবে বলিয়া আশা করি। এখানে আরও উল্লেখ করা যাইতে পারে যে Calcutta Turf Club ১৯১৮ সন হইতে কোন প্রকার লাইসেন্স ফি না দিয়া সরকারের অনুমতি লইয়া কয়েক কোটি টাকার সম্পত্তি অর্জন করিয়াছে। Turf Clubকে লাইসেন্স ফি বাবদ ১৫ লক্ষ টাকা বোম্বাই সরকারকে দিতে হয়। অথচ এখানে তাহারা বৎসরের পর বৎসর নির্বিবাদে লাইসেন্স ফি না দিয়া ঘোড়দৌড়ের জুয়া খেলা চালাইয়া প্রচুর উপার্জন করিয়া চলিয়াছে। ট্যাক্স যদি বাড়াইতেই হইত তো সর্বপ্রথমে এই ক্ষেত্রেই উহা বাড়ানো সঙ্গত ছিল। কোন বৎসর লাভ না হইলেও ট্যাক্স দিবার ক্ষমতা তাহাদের যথেষ্ট আছে। কিন্তু তাহা না করিয়া অর্থমন্ত্রী মহাশয় গরীবের দিয়াশলাই, রাই, সরিষা তৈল, জ্বালানী কাঠ, কোক্ কয়লা প্রভৃতির উপর নূতন করিয়া ট্যাক্স চাপাইয়া জনসাধারণকে বিক্ষুব্ধ করিয়া তুলিতেছেন এবং ইহা কংগ্রেসের বিরুদ্ধে বিদ্বেষ প্রচারের সুযোগই মাত্র করিয়া দিতেছে। এই সকল ত্রুটী যদি সংশোধিত না হয়, তবে বিক্ষুব্ধ জনসাধারণের দৃষ্টিতে কংগ্রেস দরিদ্র গ্রামবাসীর স্বার্থবিরোধী বলিয়াই প্রতীয়মান হইবে।

এতদ্ভিন্ন যেস্থানে অর্থাভাবে উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনাগুলি একদিকে পরিত্যক্ত বা অসম্ভব রকমে সঙ্কুচিত করা হইয়াছে এবং দীর্ঘ বাজেট বক্তৃতায় অর্থমন্ত্রী মহাশয় যেখানে শিল্প রাষ্ট্রায়ত্ত করিবার বিরুদ্ধে মত প্রকাশ করিতেছেন, সে ক্ষেত্রে কলিকাতায় বাস চালাইবার জন্য ১৯৪৮-৪৯ সনে ৫০ লক্ষ এবং ১৯৪৯-৫০ সনে ৭৬ লক্ষ টাকা,—মোট ১ কোটি ২৬ লক্ষ টাকা বিনিয়োগ সরকারী অভিমতের ও কাজের অসামঞ্জস্যেরই জাজ্বল্য প্রমান। ইহার যৌক্তিকতা এবং প্রয়োজনীয়তা আমরা বুঝিতে পারি নাই। সরকারী বাস অপেক্ষা অনেক বেশী সংখ্যক বে-সরকারী বাস কলিকাতার রাস্তায় চলিতেছে। ইহা একটী লাভজনক ব্যবসা। ব্যক্তিগত মালিকানার পরিবর্তে সমবায় প্রথায় এই ব্যবসায় চালাইবার জন্য কলিকাতার বিভিন্ন পল্লীতে অনেকগুলি সমবায় সমিতি রেজিষ্ট্রী করা আছে। সরকারী উৎসাহ পাইলে সমবায় সমিতিগুলি সরকারী বাসসমূহ পরিচালিত করিবার দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ করিতে পারে। ইহাতে centralised garage নির্মাণ করার জন্য সরকারী মূলধনের প্রয়োজন হইবে না। কোন প্রকার ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত না হইয়া সরকারের নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীনেই এই বাস চালানো যাইতে পারিবে।

ইহা ছাড়া মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী মহাশয় নিজেই বলিয়াছেন যে ইনসিওরেন্স ও ডিপ্রিসিয়েশন চার্জ বাদ না দিয়া এই কাজে বৎসরান্তে প্রায় সাড়ে আট লক্ষ টাকা লাভ হইবার কথা। অন্ততঃপক্ষে ১০% ডিপ্রিসিয়েশন (মূল্যাপ কর্ষ) Insurance Charge, Income Tax এবং আকস্মিক ক্ষতির হিসাব ধরিলে লাভ না হইয়া এই কাজে প্রচুর লোকসান দাঁড়াইবে। শুনিয়াছি বেকার সমস্যা সমাধানের জন্যই সরকার নাকি এইকাজে অগ্রসর হইয়াছেন। আপনার জনেদের সাহায্য করিবার উদ্দেশ্য যদি না থাকে, তাহা হইলে কলিকাতার অধিবাসীরা সমবায় সমিতি গঠন করিলে বাঙ্গালী যুবকদের বেকার সমস্যা সমাধান না হইবার কোন কারণ নাই। অতএব ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইয়া সিভিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগের মত আর একটী লোকসানের কারবার চালাইবার সার্থকতা কি হইতে পারে? বরং বাস চালাইবার কাজ জনসাধারণের হাতে ছাড়িয়া ঐ মূলধন কোন Basic Industry গড়িয়া তুলিবার জন্য অথবা কলিকাতার বাসগুহ সমস্যা সমাধানের জন্য নিয়োগ করিলে অধিকতর উপকার সাধিত হইতে পারে।

অর্থমন্ত্রী মহাশয় ব্যবসায় ক্ষেত্রে কৃতী। এই কৃতিত্বের ছাপ এই বাজেটের মধ্যে দেখিতে পাইলে বাংলাদেশের অনেক কল্যাণ হইবে। মাত্র দুই একটী বিষয়ের প্রতি তাঁহার দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতে চাই।

বন-বনানী জাতির শ্রেষ্ঠ সম্পদ। প্রত্যেক মালিক ইহা হইতে প্রচুর লাভ করে। কিন্তু বাংলা সরকারের হাতে ইহার ফল বিপরীত। ১৯৪৯-৫০ সালে এই খাতে মোট ৫২ লক্ষ ৯২ হাজার টাকা আয় আশা করা হইয়াছে। এই হিসাবে মোট ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে ৪৮ লক্ষ ৫৮ হাজার টাকা। ইহার মধ্যে উন্নয়নের জন্য ৯ লক্ষ টাকা মাত্র ব্যয় হইবে। অবশিষ্ট ৩৯ লক্ষ ৫৮ হাজার টাকা অর্থাৎ ৭৩·৭% টাকা কর আদায়ের খাতেই নিঃশেষ হইয়া যাইবে।

কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার হইতে সাহায্য পাইয়া সরকারী বীজাগারগুলির মারফতে কৃষি বিভাগ বীজ, সার ইত্যাদি বিক্রয় করিয়া বহু টাকা লোকসান করে, আর সমবায় পদ্ধতিতে বিহারে বীজ ও সার বিক্রয় করিয়া প্রতিবৎসর কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা লাভ হয়। গত বৎসর অর্থমন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি এই বিষয়ে আকর্ষণ করিয়াছিলাম। বিহারের কার্য্য-বিবরণী মহাকরণে আছে। বাটান সেন্ট্রাল কো-অপারেটিভ মাল্টী পারপাস সোসাইটী পরীক্ষামূলকভাবে এই বিক্রয়ের ভার পাইবার জন্য গত ১৩ই নভেম্বর তারিখে আবেদন করিয়াও ফলাতে সমর্থ হয় নাই। এবারেও পুনরায় আমি তাঁহাকে এ বিষয়ে সম্যক্ অবহিত হইতে অনুরোধ করিতেছি।

সময় সংক্ষেপ, বক্তব্য অনেক। বর্ণিত বক্তব্য হইতেই বাজেটের ত্রুটিবিচ্যুতি বিষয়ে পরিষদ সুবিবেচনা করিয়া আবশ্যকীয় পরিবর্তন পরিবর্ধনান্তর ইহা গ্রহণে প্রয়াসী হইবেন এবং কংগ্রেসের সুনাম রক্ষা করিবেন এই আশাই আমি পোষণ করি।

Sri PRAMATHA NATH BANDOPADHAYA : মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহাশয়, বাজেট স্পীচে আমার পূর্ববর্তী বক্তারা যা বললেন তাতে বহু দরকারী বিষয় আলোচনা করলেন। আমি এই মাত্র বলতে চাই যে এই বাজেট হচ্চে গিয়ে আমাদের জাতির দর্পণস্বরূপ, এবং এতে আমাদের জাতির লোকেদের বহু বিষয় শিক্ষণীয় আছে। তাদের আর্থিক অবস্থা এবং সামাজিক অবস্থা কি রকম তা এই বাজেট থেকে আমরা জানতে পারি। পূর্বে যেমন দেশের লোকেরা বাজেটের জন্য কোন রকম আগ্রহ করতো না এখন তা নয়; দেশের লোক অর্থাৎ যাদের জন্য আমরা এই কংগ্রেসের প্রতিনিধি হিসাবে এখানে এসেছি তারা আজকাল এই বাজেটের প্রতি লক্ষ্য রাখে। বিভিন্ন সংবাদপত্রের মারফৎ বাজেট সম্পর্কে যে সমস্ত আলোচনা হয় তা দেশের দরিদ্র ব্যক্তিরাও পড়ে, মূর্খ ব্যক্তিরাও শোনে। কাজেই বাজেটে কোথায় গলতি হয়, কোথায় জাতির আশা আকাঙ্খার প্রতিকূলে হয় তা দেশের লোক লক্ষ্য রাখে। বাজেটে যে সমস্ত বিষয় আলোচনা হয়েছে সেগুলি নিয়ে আমাদের দেশের লোক যখন জিজ্ঞাসা করে তাদের ঔচিত্য অনৌচিত্য সম্বন্ধে তখন আমাদের পক্ষে তাদের উত্তর দেওয়া অনেক সময় মুস্কিল হয়। মহাত্মাজী যা বলে গিয়েছেন কংগ্রেস মজদুররাজ প্রতিষ্ঠিত করতে হবে, এবং গত জয়পুর কংগ্রেসেও আলোচনা হয়েছে যে আমাদের দেশে শ্রেণীহীন সমাজ তৈরি করতে হবে, সেই শ্রেণীহীন সমাজের প্রতি লক্ষ্য রেখে এই বাজেট হয়েছে কিনা এটা দেশের লোক লক্ষ্য করে এবং আমাদেরও তাদের কাছে কৈফিয়ৎ দিতে হয়। আমি সে জন্য কয়েকটী বিষয় সামান্য আলোচনা করবো।

প্রথম হচ্চে এই যে মহাত্মাজী বলেছিলেন যে স্বরাজ হবার পর ৫০০৲ টাকার বেশী কারো Government থেকে বেতন নেওয়া উচিৎ হবে না। আমরা তা কার্য্যে পরিণত করতে পারিনি। অবশ্য দেশের এই অর্থকষ্ট দিন দিন যেভাবে পরিবর্ত্তিত হচ্চে তাতে ৫০০৲ টাকায় চলার অসুবিধা আছে। কিন্তু আমাদের যে সমস্ত বিভাগ আছে তাতে যাঁরা কাজ করছেন তাঁদের দুটো স্তর আছে, একটা উচ্চ স্তর, একটা নিম্ন স্তর। এই দুই স্তরের ভিতর যে গভীর ব্যবধান আছে বেতনের, সেই বেতনের ব্যবধান থাকার জন্যই দেশের ভিতর অনেক রকম অসন্তোষ দেখা যায়। একদল লোক ১০০৲।১৫০৲ টাকা নিয়ে কাজ করেন, আর একদল লোক তিন হাজার পর্য্যন্ত বেতন নেন। এ সম্বন্ধে আলোচনাও হচ্চে বিভিন্ন কাগজে। তাঁরা দেখাচ্ছেন যে যার ৭০০৲ টাকা বেতন ছিল তার ৬ মাসের মধ্যে ১,৭০০৲ টাকা বেতন হয়ে গেল; যার ৫০০৲ টাকা বেতন ছিল তার অল্পদিনের মধ্যে ১,৫০০৲ টাকা হয়ে গেল। দেশের লোক জিজ্ঞাসা করে, এর কারণ কি? এর কৈফিয়ৎ দিতে হয়। কাজেই এসব সম্বন্ধে আমাদের আলোচনা করবার সময় এসেছে। যা একজন পূর্ববর্তী বক্তা বললেন, যে এটা top heavy Government, এই মাথা ভারী Government এর দিকে লক্ষ্য রেখে যদি একে কমাতে না পারি তাহলে দেশের লোক আমাদিগকে এই বাজেটের জন্য প্রশংসা করবেন না। আর একটী বিষয় লক্ষ্য রাখতে হবে যে আমাদের লাটসাহেবের বাবদে অনেক টাকা তার সফর প্রভৃতির জন্য বরাদ্দ আছে। কয়েকদিন পূর্বে আমাদের মেদিনীপুর জেলায় আমাদের মাননীয় কাটজু মহাশয় গিয়েছিলেন সফর করতে। তাতে যা লক্ষ্য করেছি এবং দেশের লোকের মনভাব যা লক্ষ্য করেছি তাতে এই কথা বলতে পারি যে আমাদের দেশে মন্ত্রী এবং লাটসাহেব প্রভৃতির যেসমস্ত সফরের ব্যবস্থা আছে সে আরো সরল হওয়া উচিৎ এবং আরো অনাড়ম্বরপূর্ণ হওয়া উচিত এবং টাকা পয়সা খরচ যাতে কম হয় তা দেখা চাই। আমাদের লাটসাহেব যে গিয়েছিলেন তাঁর সঙ্গে ২০০ জন পুলিশ এবং সমস্ত বিভাগীয় কর্ম্মচারী, এরা সব ছিলেন। এ জন্য যে আড়ম্বর হয়েছিল, অবশ্য তিনি তা পছন্দ করেন না কিন্তু বর্ত্তমানে যে নিয়ম আছে তার জন্য করতে হয়। দেশের লোক যাদের সঙ্গে তিনি মিশতে গিয়েছিলেন তারা অনেকটা ভয়ে দূরে সরে ছিল এবং আমার মনে হয় যে আমাদের যে Governor তাঁকে রক্ষা করার জন্য এবং তাঁর অভ্যর্থনার জন্য গরীব মধ্যবিত্তদেরই এগিয়ে আসা দরকার; এবং তিনি যখন সফরে বেরোবেন তখন শুধু বড় লোকেরাই তাঁকে বাড়ীতে রাখবেন এটা ঠিক নয়। কাযেই আমি একথা বলতে চাচ্ছি যে দেশের লোক বুঝতে সুরু করুক যে কংগ্রেসের যে আদর্শ কৃষক মজদুররাজ সেটা সত্যিই প্রবর্ত্তিত হতে যাচ্ছে। এটা যে বড় লোকের রাজত্ব হবে এটা দেশের লোক পছন্দ করছে না। দেশের লোকের ভিতর আজ একটা মর্য্যাদা বোধ জাগ্রত হয়েছে। আমি আর অধিক কিছু বলতে চাই না। শুধু এইটুকু বলতে চাই যে গঠন বিভাগে যে সমস্ত টাকা নির্দ্দিষ্ট হয়েছে সেই নির্দ্দিষ্ট টাকা যদি সত্যি সত্যি ভালভাবে খরচ হয় তাহলে ঐ সমস্ত কাজ ভালভাবে চলতে পারে। বহু টাকা বিভিন্ন গঠন বিভাগে, কি কৃষি, কি বন, কি স্বাস্থ্য, কি শিক্ষা—এই সমস্ত বিভাগে

খরচের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় এতটাকা ব্যবস্থা করা সত্ত্বেও, যা পূর্ব্বতন বক্তা বললেন, তার অল্প টাকাই জনসাধারণের কাজে লাগে। বাকী টাকা সেই বিভাগীয় কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতনের জন্য এবং যাতায়াত প্রভৃতির ব্যয়ে খরচ হয়ে যায়। এর ফলে দেখা যায় যে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দ হচ্চে কিন্তু অতি সামান্য টাকাই দেশের লোকের জন্য খরচ হচ্চে। একটা সামান্য উদাহরণ যা চোখে পড়ছে আপনাদের বলতে চাই, সেটা হচ্চে বন বিভাগ। আমাদের কাঁথীতে বন বিভাগের কিছু কাজ হয়। সমুদ্রের ধারে কত গাছ লাগানো হয়, তার জন্য লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করে দেখি। সমুদ্রের উপর বাড়ী তৈরি হয়েছে, কিন্তু সেই aforestationএর যে কাজ হচ্চে সে অতি নগণ্য। সেই টাকা Union Boardএর হাতে দিলে বেশী কাজ হতো। এই রকম বিভিন্ন বিভাগে হয়েছে। যেমন পুলিশ বিভাগ, তাতে অনেক টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে। দেশের যে অবস্থা খারাপ তা আমি স্বীকার করি। কিন্তু তথাপি পুলিশ বিভাগের টাকা বাড়ার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে যে পুলিশ বিভাগের যোগ্যতা বেড়েছে তা আমি স্বীকার করি না। এই জন্য স্বীকার করি না, যে এই যে এত বড় একটা ঘটনা কয়েকদিন পূর্ব্বে হয়ে গেল, মাত্র তিন চার দিন পূর্ব্বে, সেটা কি করে হলো এত বড় পুলিশ বিভাগ থাকতে। আমরা যখন আন্দোলন করতাম তখন কোথায় কে গোপনে কি করছে সমস্ত ঘটনা তাদের নখ-দর্পণে থাকতো। আর এত বড় একটা raid হয়ে গেল কলকাতার উপকণ্ঠে তার আগে পর্য্যন্ত পুলিশ কিছু জানতে পারেনি। এবং যখন জানতে পারলো তখন বহু ক্ষতি হয়ে গিয়েছে। এরকম হওয়াটা বড়ই অবাঞ্ছনীয়। এই যে পুলিশ বিভাগ, এতে বেশী টাকা খরচ হলে দেশের লোক আমাদের কাছে কৈফিয়ৎ চায়। চুরি ডাকাতি বেড়ে গিয়েছে, সব case detected হচ্চে না। যখন চোরকে ধরিয়ে দেওয়া যায় তখনই পুলিশের কৃতিত্ব দেখা যায়। ডাকাতি হয়ে যাওয়ার পর ডাকাত ধরা পড়লে তার দণ্ড হয়, কিন্তু ডাকাতির পূর্ব্বে বিশেষ কিছু হয় না। এই রকম অবস্থা পুলিশের। এই পুলিশের জন্য অনেক টাকা খরচ হচ্চে। আমি আশা করি যে যে বিভাগের যিনি মন্ত্রী তিনি দেখবেন তাঁর বিভাগ কার্য্যকরী যেন হয়। তা না হলে দেশের লোককে আমরা সন্তুষ্ট করতে পারবো না।

শিক্ষার জন্য অনেক টাকা যে দরকার তাতে সন্দেহ নাই, কিন্তু যে টাকা বরাদ্দ ধরা হয়েছে ঐ বিভাগে আমার মনে হয় যাঁরা সর্ব্বোচ্চ কর্ম্মচারী তাঁরাই অধিকাংশ টাকা পান আর নিম্নের দিকের লোক যেমন প্রাথমিক শিক্ষক প্রভৃতি তারা কম টাকা পান, অর্থাৎ যাঁদের উপর জাতি গঠনের ভার আছে তারাই কম পান। এবং আমি মনে করি যে টাকা গঠনমূলক কার্য্যে দেওয়া হয়েছে সেই যাতে ভাল ভাবে খরচ হয় সেই বিষয়েতে বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রী যারা আছেন তাঁদের তীক্ষ্ণ দৃষ্টি রাখা উচিৎ। উচ্চ এবং নিম্ন স্তরের ভিতর বেতনের যে গভীর ব্যবধান আছে সেই ব্যবধান যাতে কমে যায় এবং উচ্চ স্তরের কর্ম্মচারীরা যাতে আরো কমবেতন পান তার ব্যবস্থা করা উচিৎ, যাতে আমরা লোকেদের কাছে কৈফিয়ৎ দিতে পারি। আমি পুনরায় বলছি, আমাদের বিশেষ কৈফিয়ৎ দিতে হয়। যে সমস্ত কর ধরা হয়েছে গরীব লোকেদের উপর সেই কর গরীব লোকদের অত্যন্ত অপ্রীতিকর হয়েছে এবং কংগ্রেসের পক্ষে থেকে আমরা তাদের কাছে খেলো হয়েছি। প্রথম হচ্চে এই সরষের তেলের উপর, জ্বালানি কাঠের উপর আর দেয়াশালাইয়ের উপর যে কর ধরা হয়েছে তা করা উচিৎ হয়নি। আমার পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী বক্তা অন্নদা বাবু যে কথা বলেছেন আশা করি মন্ত্রী মহাশয় তা প্রণিধান করবেন। এই কর উঠে গেলে ভালই হবে। কারণ গরীব লোকে এতে অত্যন্ত নিপীড়িত হচ্চে এবং যায়গায় যায়গায় কংগ্রেসের বিরুদ্ধে প্রচার করবার জন্য একদল লোক আছে। সেইজন্য আমি বলছি যে সেই দিকে দৃষ্টি রেখে আমাদের এই সব কর বন্ধ করা উচিৎ।

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-50 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 2nd March, 1949, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 2nd March, 1949, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (SRI ASHUTOSH MALLICK) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 55 members.

Obituary.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Sir, with your permission and the permission of the House may I refer to the loss which we and the country have sustained in the death of Mrs. Naidu, Dr. Syud Hossain, Mr. Manmatha Nath Roy and the sorrow which the Hon'ble Speaker has sustained at the loss of his daughter early this morning. Sir, the angel of death has been busy in our midst. It was a stunning news which I heard this morning that at 2-45 a.m. last night Mrs. Naidu had shaken off her mortal coil and joined her beloved Bapu and other associates in the abode of the blessed.

Mrs. Naidu was born 70 years ago in a family which came from Dacca but in culture, education and enlightenment that family was one of the foremost in those days. Her father whom I happened to know, Dr. Aghore Nath Chatterjee, was one of the most brilliant scientists of those days. He was a versatile scholar. He knew six or seven languages fairly well. He was a graduate and a Doctor of the Edinburgh University and he was asked by the late Nizam to reform the educational system in the State where for many years he lived and worked successfully In that atmosphere young Sarojini Naidu grew up and as far as I am aware, she got her Matriculation examination through at the age of 12 and once she told me the story that at the age of 13 she was trying to solve a sum in Algebra, but all she could do was to write poetry. Her mother also was a very good poetess. Mrs. Naidu went to England and joined the London college as well as the one at Cambridge, but owing to bad health had to come back, but she pursued her dream of writing about men and things of her own country. She married Dr. Naidu, a man of her choice, but the cloistered home, a secure place, the comfort of a family life was not for her. She started early in life as the follower of Gopal Krishna Gokhale to take interest in the political movements of the day. When the Non-Co-operation Movement came in 1919 she threw herself in it heart and soul and since then up till her death she was one of the foremost figures in the political and administrative spheres of this country. It was once, I believe, when she was speaking at the Madras Provincial Conference in 1918 she said, "Why are you surprised," she said to the audience, "that a dreamer of dreams, a poet who lives in a hall of ivory should come out to the market-place"; because, she said, "as a poet I dream the dreams of the country and I am anxious to lead the life of those who work and toil for the country". As everybody is aware she was the President of the Indian National Congress and those who were in Kanpur in 1925 could never forget the inspiring oration which she delivered extempore. She was a member of the Working Committee for many years but even when in the later stage of her life she went into a sort of retired mode of existence she still brought to bear upon her surroundings a queenly prestige which were all her own. Like her father her room in the afternoon was visited not by one community, or the other, not merely by

those who were intellectually great but even by those who were considered to be illiterate. Hindus and Muslims joined and jostled with one another in getting advice from her and she was ready to meet all of them on the same level. I believe the first time that she did appear in public platform was in 1913 when she went to Lucknow as the delegate-ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity and that outlook she continued to have even to the last day of her life. Only the other day, Sunday before last, I saw her at Lucknow. It was the same talk that she has had with me for years and years. She was one of the foremost champions of women's rights and I believe she led a deputation to Montague when he came over here for the purpose of considering the terms of the New Constitution which is known as the Montague-Chemsford Act. Many times she had been to England and other places as an emissary from this country to place before the people of other lands the difficulties, the trials and conditions in which the people of her country lived. And yet those of us who had the opportunity of seeing her closer in life knew that she was a beloved wife in a loving household. She was at once a nurse, a cook, a sympathiser in distress in her own family. It was a curious combination which made a fighter for freedom a person who faced the full blast of the British autocracy; and yet she was soft, she had a full sense of humour, she had the gift to make everybody feel at home when they were near her. It is difficult to find an equal: there is only one Mrs. Naidu, there is only one woman perhaps in the whole world today who has been given the charge of a big province. I think nowhere in the world, not even in Russia nor in the United States, has a woman been given such a big charge whether in the political or in the administrative sphere. We mourn her loss at this juncture because we are trying to form a new country and a new union and a new place to live in with new ideals. Her ideals, her cultural influence, and the way in which she could bring to bear upon her surroundings a high value which she used to put on social condition—we shall miss all these in our development programme. We mourn her death. I wish, Sir, that you will convey to the members of her family, particularly to her sorrowing husband and daughters, the sincerest condolences of this Assembly.

Dr. Syud Hossain I knew personally. A charming man, although he lived for 25 years or more outside this country, he never forgot his country. When I was there in the United States year before last I could see the impression he has left behind; I could see the field he has created for the good of this country; I could see the influence that he wielded when he was there although he was merely a non-official ambassador of this country. A man erudite, a great scholar, and yet he talked and lived in an atmosphere of common level which was purely unique. It was a great help to the Indian Union to have got his services to represent this country in a foreign land and a difficult place like Egypt. He understood them and they understood him. We also mourn his loss. He was probably one of the biggest nationalists amongst the Muslims that I know of, and he kept his ideas and ideals of Hindu-Muslim unity free and untarnished, without any cloud in his vision.

Srijut Manmatha Nath Roy had been a close associate of mine in the University. By his culture, erudition and scholarship which he had as well as which he had inherited from his father the late Mahendra Nath Roy, he was an asset to the University for a long period of years that he was associated with it. A very keen mathematician, he was always a help in devising syllabuses and courses of study in that subject in the University. He was also very long associated with the District Board and the Municipality of Howrah. He was also for some time our close associate in the old Bengal Legislative Council in the last twenties and thirties. I understand he was also elected a member of the Assembly in 1937. We are sorry for his death because he was comparatively young and he had still a large number of years, according to normal calculation, to go before his life should have ended. But Providence will it otherwise.

I also desire to mention the fact that our revered Speaker has suffered a loss by the death of his daughter who was suffering for the last few days and who died early this morning. We want to express our sincerest condolences to the families of Dr. Syud Hossain and Srijut Manmatha Nath Roy, and we also send our respectful message of condolence to the Hon'ble Speaker for the loss he has sustained.

Sir, with these words I put the matter before the House.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of this side of the House I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble the Leader of the House on the sad deaths of Srimati Sarojini Naidu, Dr. Syud Hossain, Srijut Manmatha Nath Roy and the daughter of our Speaker. Sir, the news of the death of Srimati Sarojini Naidu was received by us with a tremendous shock. We have this consolation that she died in the height of her glory. She died as the Governor of the biggest province of the Indian Dominion, the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. She, on the eve of her departure for Lucknow to take her new responsibility, said, she was not going to be the Governor of the United Provinces but the governess of the children of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. Srimati Sarojini was doubtless the most charming and talented personality in the politics of India. She commanded universal respect and admiration. She seasoned the cold logic of India's politics with the milk of human sympathy and kindness. She abundantly made her contribution to the politics of India during the last several years of her association with the leading and dominant political party of India, the Congress. Sir, I remember with pleasant memories my personal association with her. In the year 1919 when Mahatma Gandhi launched the Non-Co-operation Movement in India we had the honour to receive her at our Burdwan residence as our family guest. Many years after I met her for the last time in the house of a common friend in Calcutta. I was then awfully surprised to find that after all these long years of interval she did not forget my nickname. She addressed me in familiar terms and reminded me of her association with me and my family. Sir, by the death of Srimati Sarojini Naidu we have lost a charming and talented personality. The women of India are now today struggling and striving to get equal status with men. I would advise them to emulate the example of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu so that they may deserve and justify their demands for equal rights.

Dr. Syud Hossain was an equally talented personality. Now that he is dead we feel we failed to do proper justice to him. We could not appreciate his talents and retain him in our midst so that we could take advantage of his wisdom; we were indifferent to him and his talents. He had to spend a considerable part of his life in foreign countries and has died in Egypt.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very bad luck of India that we are now losing one after another the great talents of India whose services were most needed at the present crisis when India is just going to mould her destiny. A brilliant future of a country or a nation cannot be moulded merely by demagogues and power politicians. For proper development of a nation and a country we need talents. We should, therefore, instead of merely lamenting the death of our well beloved leaders set ourselves firmly for improving our own human material and it is only in this way that we can do justice to those who have gone before us to the abode of bliss.

Sir, the Hon'ble the Leader of the House has referred to the death of Sri Manmatha Nath Roy. With him also I had the honour to be personally associated. If I remember aright he was a professor or a lecturer of the Law College of the Calcutta University. I had the honour and privilege of attending his classes. He was a member of this Assembly and as a member of the Assembly he discharged his duties well. He was a very charming and pleasant personality.

Sir, the Hon'ble the Leader has also referred to the death of the daughter of our Speaker. We fully associate ourselves with the sentiments that the Hon'ble the Leader of the House has expressed in conveying our condolence to the Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must realise that our leaders who struggled and sacrificed and have crowned our efforts for attaining independence with success have grown old and fatigued. They deserve rest. It is a pity and a confession of our inefficiency that they have still to shoulder the responsibilities of administration of this country and to take the unpleasant responsibility of governing us. If we were efficient and able enough to take the responsibility in our own hands they could have taken the rest they deserve. Providence is kinder than we are. One after another Provindence is taking them away from our midst to give them the rest they deserve so well. Those who die go and enter into the abode of bliss as the Hon'ble the Leader has said. So they lose nothing but gain eternal bliss and happiness; we lose by their deaths, but, Sir, as one who always considers everything from its practical aspect I am not inclined to lament over the inevitable. The task of carrying the chariot of progress of our country and nation has definitely vested in the youths and the maidens. We can honour the dead and honour our living leaders only by improving our own human material and making ourselves fit and competent to take the responsibility of moulding our destiny in our own way and to regain the lost prestige of India and to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the millions of the people who inhabit this golden land now known as the Indian Dominion.

Mr. J. R. WALKER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel that anything I might say today would be totally inadequate to the sad occasion, and on behalf of my colleague and myself I associate myself with everything the Chief Minister has said and with the message of sympathy that you will send on behalf of this Assembly to the bereaved families.

Janab Syed BADRUDDUJA: Mr Deputy Speaker, I also associate myself with the feelings expressed by the Hon'ble the Leader of the House and add my humble tribute of respect to the memories of the illustrious children of India, more especially to Srijukta Sarojini Naidu who had been one of the most striking personalities of modern India. Great as a politician, great as a patriot, great as a nation-builder, great as a fighter for freedom, great as a poetess and greater still as a humanist and ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity for more than 50 years she made magnificent contributions towards the political, cultural and social life of the country. Alone perhaps among the great leaders of public opinion, she maintained serenity of outlook, charity of temper, mental catholicity and sweet disposition even in the midst of communal frenzies and passions which distracted the country. I had the privilege and honour of paying my respects to her in the year 1943 when she was stopping at the residence of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, the Hon'ble Leader of the House, and later on I also refreshed those associations at Simla in the year 1945. The death of such a personality removes from the field not merely a charming character, not merely a gifted and talented lady of wide sympathies, clear vision and broad outlook, but one who would have done well to soothe trouble water and pave the way for that inter-communal harmony and peace which is the cry in this much distracted, much agitated, much disturbed land of Hindusthan.

About Dr. Syud Hossain I also associate myself with the feelings expressed. I had only one occasion to meet him at the residence of his brother-in-law my revered leader Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq when he came last to India. Syud Hossain also filled a large space in the public life of India. Even in America for about a quarter of a century he fought for the rights and liberties of the people of India and he tried to remove the misunderstandings that had lurked in the minds of the foreigners. Dr. Syud Hossain has left behind also an example for posterity to follow.

I also associate myself with the feelings expressed in favour of Sri Manmatha Nath Roy and the daughter of the Hon'ble Speaker of the House.

I wish that my feelings may also be conveyed to the bereaved families of these souls that have passed away creating a void in our midst.

Janab ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not have spoken on this occasion but for the fact that I knew two of the personalities to which the Hon'ble the Leader of the House has referred so feelingly this afternoon. Sir, as an undergraduate I met Mrs. Naidu in 1905. It means almost half a century, and from that date till now my sense of respect and, may I add, Sir, my sense of affection for Mrs. Naidu never went down. Sir, throughout these years it was difficult for me and my associates in the political and social world to decide whether Mrs. Naidu was a Hindu or a Muslim lady. Sir, it is perhaps a good tribute to Mrs. Naidu's catholicity of views that more Muslims called her *Akka*, which is the word used in Southern India for an elder sister, than members of her own community. Mrs. Naidu had the courage to speak out her mind, and I know occasions when, even at the risk of displeasing some of the great leaders of the country, Mrs. Naidu did speak out her mind. I also had the honour, Sir, of meeting, as a young man, Dr. Aghorenath Chattopadhyaya, in Hyderabad, and I also have the honour of knowing Dr. Naidu. I of course knew all the children of Mrs. Naidu. In her disappearance Muslims in the Indian Dominion have lost a sincere friend and a great advocate. So long as Mrs. Naidu was there, one felt safe. I hope that the political organization to which she belonged, will produce many people holding the views that Mrs. Naidu did, because then alone shall we be able to carry out the duties and responsibilities before us as members of the new State.

Syud Hossain and I met, Sir, in 1906, that is, only one year after I had the honour of meeting Mrs. Naidu. Syud Hossain and I were together at Aligarh. Syud Hossain went as a member of the Khilafat Delegation to London, under Mohamed Ali and there again he and I worked together in London, in Paris and in Rome. While Syud Hossain was associated with the "Chronicle" and later on with the "Independent" we met on many occasions and then, Sir, we lost him for almost a generation. As the Hon'ble the Leader of the House has said, he never forgot that he was an Indian and every minute of his life was devoted to the service of the country of his birth. It was a tragedy that he could not come back to us earlier but when he did come back the Government of India realized the calibre of which he was made and sent him to Egypt. Sir, I met him only four months ago in Cairo. We met several times and we discussed Islam, India and the whole world threadbare. If the Government of India finds ambassadors of the type of Syud Hossain, I feel that our country shall be represented by men of the highest calibre who can stand shoulder to shoulder with any diplomatic representative of any nation in the world.

In these two personalities, Sir, I have lost personal friends of long standing. An Urdu poet has said

بہت آگئے گئے باقی جو ہیں تیار بیٹھے ہیں *

These friends have gone; our turn is also coming. Let us hope that their souls will rest in eternal peace.

Mr. Roy, I did not know personally, Sir, but from what the Hon'ble the Leader has said, his loss is a loss to the public life of Bengal, which we mourn equally with the loss of the other two. When it comes to the sorrow that has come to our Speaker, we feel that here there is a personal sentiment which needs to be expressed from the depths of our hearts. We hope he will bear his loss with courage and fortitude. Sir, I associate myself entirely and completely with every word that has fallen from the lips of the Hon'ble the Leader of the House.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Quran has said these great personages belonged to God and they return to God. These persons according to Quran and every dictum belonged to God. They were the gifts of God to the world in order to enable the people to lead a moral life, a disciplined life. They do everything to make the whole nation materially and morally great. Sir, I think these personages were the gifts of God and He had sent them in His mercy to us for improving us, for infusing in us the feelings of nationality, the feelings of humanity and the feelings of charity. It was only yesterday, Sir, in this very hall I mentioned the name of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and said that she was one of the greatest leaders of India and the pride of womanhood. I then went on to say that she was the nightingale of India who brought the message of peace and harmony in this world of strife. Sir, in this hour of sorrow I have got nothing more to say. I only pray that God in His mercy might be pleased to send such women amongst us to guide us in the right path. Sir, I am a close follower and I am a believer in the message of Mahatma Gandhi and I truly and sincerely regard him as the Father of the Indian Nation and I think, Sir, if Mahatma Gandhi was the Father then Mrs. Sarojini was the Mother of the Nation and we have now lost both our Father and our Mother and have become orphans. Sir, under such circumstances I can only pray to God that He in His mercy may send us leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu to guide us in the right path.

As regards the other gentleman, Dr. Syud Hossain, I had no occasion to meet him but from what has fallen from our learned Leader, from our honoured Leader of the House and from what I have heard from Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi he was also a great man and we all condole his loss and sympathise with his bereaved family. India is the loser and we Indians are the losers by the loss of such persons.

As regards Manmatha Nath Roy he was a young man and I had no occasion to come in contact with him and I cannot say anything regarding him except join in the tributes paid by our honoured Leader of the House and by other members and sympathise with the bereaved family.

Then as regards the bereavement of our learned Speaker in the demise of his daughter I offer my condolences to him. Our Speaker, Sri Iswar Das Jalan, was really an Iswar Das, a true servant of God, and, in his bereavement, in the loss which he has sustained by the death of his beloved daughter we sincerely condole with him and we are all agreed in sending a mesasge of condolence and sympathy to the members of the bereaved families.

With these words, Sir, I whole-heartedly associate myself with what has fallen from our Hon'ble the Leader of the House who is really the Leader of the House and take my seat.

Mr. R. E. PLATEL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Anglo-Indian members desire to associate themselves with the sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble the Leader of the House. After all that has been said about the late Mrs. Sarojini Naidu there is very little that I can add, and in giving any account of the qualities or achievements of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu one does feel at a loss to know where to begin and where to end. That her patriotism was intense goes without saying and from the time that India's fight for freedom took any sort of shape Mrs. Naidu was always in the vanguard. India's loss is great; India has lost one of her greatest daughters. We mourn her loss and we offer our sincere sympathies to the members of the bereaved family. We also desire to offer our sympathies to the members of the bereaved families of Dr. Syud Hossain and Sri Manmatha Nath Roy and to condole with the Speaker in the sad loss that he sustained this morning.

Janab HUSAN ARA BEGUM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I was deeply shocked to hear of the demise of my late friend Srijukta Sarojini Naidu.

Her death has created a void which it would be very hard to fill. I do not condole her loss as the Governor of the United Provinces but as the great champion of woman's cause. She lit the torch to show to the weaker sex that they can stand shoulder to shoulder with their brothers in times of emergency and to sacrifice their lives and their belongings and their luxuries for the cause of the nation. I have met her many times, also at her residence in Hyderabad. Her congenial manners, her frankness, her feelings with the masses of India are known to all. As glowing tributes have been paid to her by many members of this House I shall be brief as my heart is full and when the heart is too full it is impossible to give expression to one's feelings. The last time that I met her was in January 1949 at a reception that was given to her by 23 women associations of Calcutta. I hardly imagined then that that would be our last meeting on earth. Her broad mind, her views on the different classes of India and as my honourable colleague said the United Provinces has lost a great champion for the cause of women of India and the Muslim community, if I may be pardoned for using these words, has always looked upon her as one who has championed their cause and if, God forbid, any necessity arose she would have championed their cause again. She has remained in prison not for days but continually for months and years but her spirit had never died down and whenever she came out of prison she was more energetic than before. I have seen the last of her poems translated into Arabic which had soothed the minds of those who read it.

She was a rare daughter of India: one who felt for India, and not only did she feel for India but she did also sacrifice her life for India's cause. I should say she has been very lucky to have dedicated her life for India. She was to attend the Allahabad conference but she was advised by her doctors not to exert herself. It was a bolt from the blue when I heard that she had passed away. A genius is not born in an age: after centuries such a one comes to this earth. It is like a shining meteor that she was shedding her lustre on us. She was a woman amongst women, one who felt for her people. I pray that her soul may rest in peace.

I associate myself with the feelings of condolence expressed by the Hon'ble the Leader of the House on the death of Dr. Syud Hossain, and perhaps it would not be out of the way for me to mention here that I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Syud Hossain once in a ladies' meeting in 1946. His genial manners, his broad outlook endeared him to all. Though I knew much of him, I seldom met him personally, but I know his death has been a shock to many. Sir, the ways of Providence are not known to men. I pray, may his soul rest in peace.

Again I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble the Leader of the House and by the other members on the death of our Speaker's daughter, and I express my sincere condolence to the Hon'ble Mr. Speaker on the loss he has sustained at this time of his age when as an old father it is really very distressing to bear the loss of a dear child. I pray, may Providence bestow peace, patience and strength of mind to our Speaker to bear his terrible loss.

Sri ASHUTOSH MALLICK: Ladies and Gentlemen, I whole-heartedly associate myself with what has been said by the Leader of the House and the various other speakers.

It is with the deepest sense of sorrow that we learn about the death of Sarojini Naidu, the illustrious daughter of Bengal. A poet of no mean order, a brilliant orator, a political leader of the first rank and a personality full of vivacity and charm, Sarojini had won the admiration of all who had come in contact with her. It is not necessary for me to recount her political activities or the services she rendered to the cause of Indian Nationalism

throughout her life for they are all familiar to you. But I may be permitted to observe that first and foremost a poet, Sarojini brought poetry and life into every sphere of activity into which she plunged. She was a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi from the very beginning of his political activities in India and she truly imbibed the spirit of Gandhiji. Whoever had seen her on her last visit to Calcutta during the last Christmas and heard her speeches full of wit and charm, whether it be at a medical conference or at a University Convocation, could hardly think that the end would come so soon. Bengal can justly be proud of such a daughter and in her passing away not only Bengal but India has lost an eminent personality whose place it would be hard to fill.

I also regret to announce the death of Manmatha Nath Roy who was a very popular member of the Bengal Legislative Assembly from 1937-1945. He was connected with public activities for a long period. He was a member of the old Bengal Legislative Council and Chairman of the Howrah District Board and also took part in the affairs of the Calcutta University.

I also regret to refer to the death of Dr. Syud Hossain, India's first Ambassador to Egypt. He was a journalist by profession and spent the best part of his life in America pleading and propagating the cause of Indian nationalism there.

I also regret to refer to the bereavement of Mr. Speaker by the death of his daughter this morning and I wish to offer the heartfelt sympathy of the House to him.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our heartfelt sympathy goes to the relatives of the deceased and I am sure it is the desire of the House to convey our message to the members of the bereaved families. I hope members will please signify their assent by rising in their seats.

(Members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen; Secretary will do the needful.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the House stands adjourned till 4 p.m. tomorrow when the general discussion on the budget will proceed.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 5 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Thursday, the 3rd March, 1949, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 3rd March, 1949, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Sri ASHUTOSH MALLICK) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 58 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Number of appointments made during the last five years in the Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi.

*13. **Srijukta BINA BHOWMICK:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical and Public Health Department be pleased to state—

(a) the number of appointments made during the last 5 years in the Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi, in—

(i) superior establishment, and

(ii) inferior establishment showing separately for—

(1) jamadars and warders,

(2) jamadarins and ayahs,

(3) sweepers and methranis,

(4) private ward boys, and

(5) private ayahs; and

(b) the number of them in each of the above categories who are—

(i) Bengalees, showing among them the number of—

(1) Hindus,

(2) Muslims, and

(3) Christians, and

(ii) non-Bengalees, showing among them the number of—

(1) Hindus,

(2) Muslims, and

(3) Christians?

MINISTER in charge of the MEDICAL and PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy): Sir, before I answer the question, you will permit me to express my regret that I was not able to be present at the last meeting when questions were to be answered by me. It was more an accident than design and I can assure the members and colleagues in the House that it was not any intention on my part to offer any discourtesy to my colleagues in the Assembly.

To the first question No. 13 the answer is:—

(a)(i) Six.

(ii)(1) Seventy-five.

(2) Twenty-eight.

(3) Two hundred and forty-seven.

(4) One hundred and seventeen.

(5) Thirty-seven.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (b) of starred question No. 13.

—	Superior.	Jamadars and warders.	Jamadarins and ayahs.	Sweepers and methranis	Private ward boys.	Private ayahs.
(i) Bengalees—						
(1) Hindus	2	7	1	..	4	1
(2) Muslims .	..	..	..	..	..	..
(3) Christians ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(ii) Non-Bengalees—						
(1) Hindus	2	41	12	180	62	17
(2) Muslims	1	20		45	33	2
(3) Christians ..	1	7	15	22	18	17
Total ..	6	75	28	247	117	37

***14. Sri J. C. GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical and Public Health Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of appointments made during the last 5 years in the Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi, in—

(*i*) superior establishment, and

(*ii*) inferior establishment showing separately for—

(1) jamadars and warders,

(2) jamadarins and ayahs,

(3) sweepers and methranis,

(4) private ward boys, and

(5) private ayahs; and

(*b*) the number of them in each of the above categories who are—

(*i*) Bengalees, showing among them the number of—

(1) Hindus,

(2) Muslims, and

(3) Christians, and

(ii) non-Bengalees, showing among them the number of—

(1) Hindus,

(2) Muslims, and

(3) Christians?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: The member is referred to the reply to starred question No. 13 by Srijukta Bina Bhowmick, M.L.A., on the same subject.

The present strength of the staff of Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi.

***15. Srijukta BINA BHOWMICK:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical and Public Health Department be pleased to state—

(a) the present strength of the staff of the Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi, showing separately—

(i) the number of superior staff including (A) gazetted, and (B) non-gazetted officers, and

(ii) the number of inferior staff including—

(1) jamadars and warders,

(2) jamadarins and ayahs,

(3) sweepers and methranis,

(4) private ward boys, and

(5) private ayahs; and

(b) the number of them in each of the above categories who are—

(i) Bengalees, showing among them the number of—

(1) Hindus,

(2) Muslims, and

(3) Christians, and

(ii) non-Bengalees, showing among them the number of—

(1) Hindus,

(2) Muslims,

(3) Christians, and

(4) Others?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: (a)(i)(A) Gazetted—3.

(B) Non-gazetted—29.

(ii)(1) Three hundred and eighty-five.

(2) One hundred and nineteen.

(3) One hundred and thirty-five.

(4) Fifty-eight.

(5) Twenty.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (b) of starred question No. 15.

—	Gazetted.	Non-gazetted.	Jamadars and warders.	Jamadarins and ayahs.	Sweepers and methranis.	Private ward boys.	Private ayahs.
(i) Bengalees—							
(1) Hindus ..	1	13	16	1	..	4	1
(2) Muslims .	..	..	6	..	..	..	..
(3) Christians .	..	2	..	..	.	.	..
(ii) Non-Bengalees—							
(1) Hindus ..	1	3	149	48	78	23	8
(2) Muslims ..	1	6	115	4	31	23	..
(3) Christians ..	..	3	99	66	26	8	11
(4) Others ..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	3	29	385	119	135	58	20

***16. Sri J. C. GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical and Public Health Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the present strength of the staff of the Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi, showing separately—

(*i*) the number of superior staff including (A) gazetted, and (B) non-gazetted officers, and

(*ii*) the number of inferior staff including—

(1) jamadars and warders,

(2) jamadarins and ayahs,

(3) sweepers and methranis,

(4) private ward boys, and

(5) private ayahs; and

(*b*) the number of them in each of the above categories who are—

(*i*) Bengalees, showing among them the number of—

(1) Hindus,

(2) Muslims, and

(3) Christians, and

(*ii*) non-Bengalees, showing among them the number of—

(1) Hindus,

(2) Muslims, and

(3) Christians?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: The member is referred to the reply to starred question No. 15 by Srijukta Bina Bhowmick, M.L.A., on the same subject.

Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi.

***17. Srijukta BINA BHOWMICK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical and Public Health Department be pleased to state—

(i) the number of—

(A) permanent, and

(B) *temporary*—

(1) ayahs, and

(2) matrons

in the Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi; and

(*ii*) the number of them that are Bengalees?

(*b*) If there is no permanent Bengali ayah or matron, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the qualifications—

(*i*) General, and

(*ii*) Special,

required for the posts of—

(1) ayahs,

(2) matrons, and

(3) warders?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the application for a post of ayah in the Indian Mental Hospital from one Srimati Pankajini Sarkar of Berhampore was rejected; if so, why?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the majority of the patients of the said hospital are Bengalees?

(*f*) If the answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of appointing permanently the—

(1) ayahs,

(2) matrons, and

(3) warders,

both males and females from among Bengalees, if there be none?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: (*a*)(*i*)(A) Permanent—

(1) Ayah—92.

(2) Matron—1.

(B) Temporary—

(1) Ayah—25.

(2) Matron—Nil.

(*ii*) Matron—Nil.

Ayah—1 (temporary).

(*b*) Because Bengali candidates are generally not available.

(*c*)(1) No special qualifications are required. They should be below 25 years of age, physically fit and preferably literate and of amiable disposition.

(2) Must be a fully qualified nurse with administrative experience and ability.

(3) No special qualifications are required. They should be below 25 years of age, physically fit and preferably literate and of amiable disposition.

(*d*) Superintendent reports that the application of Srimati Pankajini Sarkar was not rejected. As there was no vacancy at the time she could not be appointed. She will be appointed early in January next.

(*e*) and (*f*) Yes.

Srijukta BINA BHOWMICK: শ্রীমতী পঙ্কজিনী সরকারকে এখন কি নেওয়া হয়েছে—শ্রী বহাদর তা জানেন কি?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY : আমি জানি না--খবর নিয়ে বলব।

Srijukta BINA BHOWMICK : বাঙ্গালী আয়া ও মেট্রন রাখা সম্বন্ধে কি step নেওয়া হয়েছে—জানতে পারি কি?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY : বোধ হয় মাননীয়া সদস্যা বীণা ভৌমিক জানেন যে, ওখানকার Administration আমাদের হাতে নেই—বেহার গভর্ণমেণ্টের হাতে। এ বিষয়ে আমি চেষ্টা করছি—দুটো আলাদা করতে পারা যায় কি না। আর কেন নেওয়া হচ্ছে, কি নেওয়া হচ্ছে—এ সব কমিটির হাতে। তিনি কমিটির মেম্বর; তিনি সেখানে যদি একটু চাপ দেন তবে ভাল হয়। আমাদের এখানে গভর্ণমেণ্টের তরফ থেকে কিছু করা সম্ভবপর নয়। তাহলেও আমি খবর নেব।

***18. Sri J. C. GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical and Public Health Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of—

(A) permanent, and

(B) temporary—

(1) ayahs, and

(2) matrons

in the Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi; and

(*ii*) the number of them that are Bengalees?

(*b*) If there is no permanent Bengali ayah or matron, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the qualifications—

(*i*) General, and

(*ii*) Special,

required for the posts of—

(1) ayahs,

(2) matrons, and

(3) warders?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the application for a post of ayah in the Indian Mental Hospital from one Srimati Pankajini Sarkar of Berhampore was rejected; if so, why?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the majority of the patients of the said hospital are Bengalees?

(*f*) If the answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of appointing permanently the—

(1) ayahs,

(2) matrons,

(3) warders,

both males and females from among Bengalees, if there be none?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: The member is referred to the reply to starred question No. 17 by Srijukta Bina Bhowmick, M.L.A., on the same subject.

Arrest of one Govinda Chandra Mondal of Jalangi, Murshidabad, by the East Bengal Government.

***19. Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether

the Government is aware of the arrest of one Govinda Prosad Mondal of Jalangi in the district of Murshidabad by the Eastern Pakistan Government in the district of Rajshahi?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the said person is still under arrest;

(*ii*) what are the charges against him; and

(*iii*) whether the Government is in communication with the Pakistan Government to obtain his release, if necessary?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy): (*a*) Yes. The name of the arrested person is Govinda Chandra Mondal and not Govinda Prosad Mondal.

(*b*) (*i*) No. He was released by the East Bengal Government as no case was proved against him.

(*ii*) The charges were under sections 302/34, I.P.C.

(*iii*) This does not arise.

Contract for supply of different articles including food to the Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi.

***20. Srijukta BINA BHOWMICK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical and Public Health Department be pleased to lay on the table—

(*i*) a copy of the rules and regulations, if any, of giving contracts for the supply of different articles including food for the Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi; and

(*ii*) the names of contractors selected for the current year for supplying—

(1) beddings,

(2) uniforms,

(3) diet, and

(4) other hospital equipments to the said hospital?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any police enquiries of contractors are made before giving them contracts for hospital supply; and

(*ii*) if so, whether such enquiries were made in the case of present contractors?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: (*a*) (*i*) A copy of Appendix "C" of the Ranchi Mental Hospital Accounts Rules, regulating the purchase of *dietary articles* required for the hospital is laid on the Library table.

A copy of Appendix "D" showing rules for the purchase of different articles other than the *dietary articles* is also laid on the Library table.

(*ii*) (1) Buxar Jail, Bhagalpur Jail and the Manager, Jail Depot, Calcutta.

(2) Buxar Central Jail and Messrs. Eastern Traders, Calcutta.

(3) Messrs. Md. Mojib and Brothers, Ranchi.

(4) Miscellaneous articles and other hospital equipments were purchased from various firms of repute of Calcutta, Ranchi, etc., after calling for the quotations as usual. A list of names is given below:—

R. Ali & Son, Ranchi.

Dutta Brothers, Ranchi.

Halder Bhattacharjee & Co., Calcutta.

P. K. Brothers, Calcutta.
Eastern Traders, Calcutta.
Presidency Jail, Alipore.
New Kanke Co-operative Stores, Kanke.
H. Mukerjee & Co., Calcutta.
H. R. Lynch & Co., Calcutta.
B. K. Paul & Co., Calcutta.
Bengal Chemical & Pharmaceutical Works, Ltd., Calcutta.
May and Baker, Calcutta.
F. J. Foster & Co., Calcutta.
Martin & Harris, Calcutta.
Boots Pure Drug Co., Calcutta.
Smith Stanistreet & Co., Calcutta.
Bathgate & Co., Calcutta.
Adair Dutt & Co., Calcutta.

(*b*) No.

*21. **Sri J. C. GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical and Public Health Department be pleased to lay on the table—

(*i*) a copy of the rules and regulations, if any, of giving contracts for the supply of different articles including food for the Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi; and

(*ii*) the names of contractors selected for the current year for supplying—

(1) beddings,

(2) uniforms,

(3) diet, and

(4) other hospital equipments to the said hospital?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any police enquiries of contractors are made before giving them contracts for hospital supply; and

(*ii*) if so, whether such enquiries were made in the case of present contractors?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: The member is referred to the reply to starred question No. 20 by Srijukta Bina Bhowmick, M.L.A., on the same subject.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Country liquor shop at 146, Upper Circular Road, Calcutta.

5. **Sri ANNADAPRASAD MANDAL:** (*a*) আবগারী বিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অবগত আছেন কি যে—

(*i*) ১৪৬নং আপার সার্কুলার রোডে পোরাচাঁদ বসু রোড ও সার্কুলার রোডের সংযোগস্থলে ১৯৪৫ সালে একটি দেশী মদের দোকান স্থাপিত হয়; এবং

(*ii*) ঐ দোকানের জন্য ঐ দোকানের আশেপাশে সাধারণ অসুবিধা ভোগ করে কি না?

(*b*) মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় জানাইবেন কি যে—

(*i*) কলিকাতায় কতগুলি দেশী মদের দোকান (country liquor shop) আছে এবং কোন্ কোন্ স্থানে উহারা অবস্থিত;

(*ii*) তিনি কি ঐসব মদের দোকান তুলিয়া দিবার আবশ্যকতা বিবেচনা করিয়াছেন; এবং

(*iii*) ঐরূপ বিবেচনা করিলে, (*a*) অনুচ্ছেদে বর্ণিত মদের দোকানটি অবিলম্বে অপসারণ করিবার আবশ্যকতা মনে করেন কি না?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: (*a*) (*i*) হাঁ, অবগত আছি। এই দোকানটি প্রায় ৫০ বৎসর যাবৎ উহার সন্নিকটে ১৪৮নং আপার সার্কুলার রোডে অবস্থিত ছিল।

(*ii*) আমি অবগত নহি। ঐ অঞ্চলের জনসাধারণের পক্ষ হইতে কোনও লিখিত আপত্তি সরকারের নিকট আসে নাই।

(*b*)(*i*) একটি সম্পূর্ণ তালিকা লাইব্রেরীর টেবিলে দেওয়া গেল।

(*ii*) [illegible] দেশী মদের দোকান তুলিয়া দেওয়া যায় কি না অনেক পূর্বেই বিবেচনা করা হইয়াছে, কিন্তু বর্তমানে ঐসকল দোকান উঠাইয়া দেওয়া সরকার সমীচীন মনে করেন না।

(*iii*) এই প্রশ্ন উঠে না।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Questions over. General discussion of the budget.

Incidents at Basirhat, Dum Dum and Howrah.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Sir, before you enter into general discussion, I rise to remind you of the Hon'ble Premier's promise to make a statement here——(the Hon'ble DR. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: I have not forgotten it.) informing the House all about the incidents that occurred in Basirhat, Dum Dum, Jessop & Co.'s premises and Howrah district in the rural areas.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the Hon'ble Minister has not forgotten it.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: But we want to know from you as to what has happened to that statement and whether he is going to make any statement.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: If I have made a promise I will keep it. Don't you worry about it.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: I thank very much for the advice the Hon'ble Leader has given not to worry, but actually we are being worried in the absence of such statement. Therefore, we want that he should take us and the House into confidence.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has said that.

General Discussion of the Budget.

Shaikh MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Budget Speech this year is remarkable in the sense that it has been presented in a tune quite different from the one to which we have been accustomed in the past. Sir, I congratulate the Finance Minister on the masterly survey of the economic and political conditions as prevailing at present in the Indian Dominion and also, Sir, for analysing with the precision of an astute businessman the effect of the various painful legislations which have been

introduced since 1947 by the Government of India as anti-inflationary measures and which have resulted in the stagnancy of trade and commerce and total disintegration of the industries in India.

Accustomed, Sir, as we are to hear speeches of this nature in the Chambers of Commerce it is encouraging to hear the repetition of those arguments, figures and statistics from the Finance Minister on the floor of this House as representing the views of the Government of West Bengal. Naturally, Sir, it has caused a flutter and sensation among those who, unlike ourselves, are not accustomed to hear this song. It has been the practice in all the Provinces for the last two years that while presenting the financial statement mention is made of the martyrdom of Gandhiji and also reference is made to Hyderabad and Kashmir Governments, and then under the cloak of these statements endeavour is made to show that all mismanagement and looseness in the administration of the Province are due to these causes. We are not surprised to hear, Sir, that the Finance Minister also attributed the deplorable condition prevailing in the administration to these causes in his Budget Speech. I would just read a few lines from the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister to show how he has also confessed that there has been maladministration in this Province and much good money has been squandered loosely in all directions to the detriment of the tax-payers. He said:—

"As a result we have often had to retrace our steps and there has been waste of valuable resources in men, material and money. It is essential that we make up our mind before starting work, and that our schemes and plans are scrutinised having regard not only to the financial results but also to the correct order of priority and with a view to avoid wasteful employment of men and materials. Men must be appointed with clear-cut duties so that they know what to do and can do what they should. A leap in the dark should be avoided as far as possible. When we have grown richer we might be able to afford leaps in the dark but not now."

Sir, this is an extract from the speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. These thoughts should have been expressed in the first Budget Speech. After one year and six months and after wasting crores and crores of rupees we are confronted with the very same thing that we lack competent and honest men. The Government have realised at this late hour that they have squandered away good money on account of not having the right type of men and incomplete plans. You will agree with me that a state of insubordination prevails in all the departments of Government and nobody cares for anybody however highly placed he may be in the administration of the Province.

The Finance Minister in his agony has spoken of the limited dividend and of the liquidation of the capitalists, but, Sir, he has forgotten to mention anything about bribery, corruption and nepotism rampant in all the departments of Government. I was really surprised to find that he did not even allude to any of these things, or give any consolation and assurance that attempt will be made to wipe out these evils. I will just give you an illustration of the experience of a very august personality of this House how every department of the Government is now corrupt and how bribery has become a part and parcel of their character. Not only that but how people ask for black-market rate without any fear. Yesterday mention was made of the bereavement of the Hon'ble Speaker of this House. You will be surprised to learn that when the Speaker of this House went to the cremation ground he had to buy the fuel at the black-market rate. He could not get three maunds of wood at the scheduled rate. Of course he did not disclose his identity. Like ordinary citizen he had to buy the fuel at the black-market rate and had also to pay the cooly extra charges though these charges are included in the fees which are realised by the Calcutta Corporation, the authorities at the cremation ground. If the

Speaker of the House, our President, had to buy fuel at the black-market rate, we can easily imagine the sufferings of the general public who have to go there ridden with grief and sorrow on account of the bereavement. Sir, this will surely surprise you and this will also be a news to our Premier, who not many days ago, was eulogising the administration of the Calcutta Corporation.

Sir, speaking of the Calcutta Corporation I might mention that in the city of Calcutta houses are being constructed in flagrant violation of the rules of the Building Department. If you go round the city of Calcutta, specially Barabazar and Canning Street areas, you will find that six or seven storeyed houses are being constructed without leaving an inch of open space. Formerly the citizen could run to the Councillor and the Councillor used to enquire into these matters, but now it appears that the officers of the departments are so busy that they do not even find time to go and have a look at these premises.

In the Civil Supplies Department also the story is the same. A Government Food Ration Store wanted the roof of the shop to be repaired and on the landlord asking for a cement permit the Ration Department wrote to the Civil Supplies Department for the grant of a permit for a ton of cement and treat the matter as very urgent as rain had commenced. Thereafter the whole of the rainy season passed, but that permit, in spite of many reminders by the Ration Department, never came and the shop was not repaired till after nine months when considerable damage had been done to the Food Grain Shop. Permits for cement are available at black-market rates. It is an open secret. People have to pay for cement at the black-market rate, because they cannot get it at the rate fixed by Government.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Permits are the commodities which are purchased at black-market rates.

Shaikh MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Yes. I will just give another instance where a party was served with a notice from the Municipal Magistrate to repair a house or else a portion of the building would be demolished. He took two months' time from the Municipal Magistrate, so that he might arrange for cement from the Civil Supplies Department. He applied to that Department but he did not get the permit. After two months an order was served on him by the Municipal Magistrate to demolish a portion of the building. He had then no other alternative but to go to the black-market and arrange purchase of cement at black-market rate.

Sir, people have to buy article very reluctantly at the black-markets, because they do not have to buy the article for their legitimate use otherwise. Even in the matter of buying article at high rate Government does lag behind.

A funny thing which may surprise the House is that whereas the controlled rate of Indian cement is only Rs. 89 and the controlled rate of imported foreign cement is Rs. 155 per ton and though Indian cement is available in big quantities the Government buys the foreign imported cement at high rates and gives permit for the Indian cement to their favourites at lower rates. This has been going on in the Calcutta Improvement Trust, in the Public Works Department of the Government of West Bengal and also in the Calcutta Corporation. Public money is being squandered on foreign imported cement whereas double the quantity could be purchased with the same amount.

The law courts are proverbially slow. We find that the cases in the law courts are adjourned for months and months. Even cases of 1947 are pending before the law courts today. Sir, I asked a question on this subject from the Leader of the House but he said that he was not prepared to reply to that question. Sir, we are in an absolute minority and so we cannot compel him to reply to our question but the contemptuous way in

which our question was treated does not enhance the prestige of the Government. Apparently obsession of power has made them rude and has demoralised the Opposition to such an extent that it does not even like to abuse the Government for its callousness. Sir, I wanted to know how many cases were still pending for the last two years and how many of them were against the Muslims. Perhaps the number of cases are not many. They can be counted on one's finger tips. But the Hon'ble the Leader of the House for reasons best known to him thought that no reply should be given to my question. After all we cannot bring a vote of no-confidence or call an adjournment motion.

The taxi permit scandal is very well-known to members of this House. Two hundred permits have been given for taxis by the Government of West Bengal. These permits were given only to a particular people, people whose names were thrust on the committee of selection by the Government. Permit was not given to the people who had been in the trade for the last 20 or 30 years. Discrimination was made even between the people of West Bengal and the people of Calcutta and very few permits—not more than 5—were given to the citizens of Calcutta.

Sir, in the budget we find that by a stroke of pen the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has eliminated Rs. 50 lakhs provided for the co-operative housing for the middle class people. We always read and hear the speeches of the supporters of labour and capital, but we have not heard a single speech from anybody in this House advocating the cause of and drawing attention of the House to the miseries of the middle class people. Rs. 50 lakhs were provided in the budget last year to be spent on the construction of houses so that poor middle class people may be housed there but nothing was done. No explanation has been given why that sum could not be spent, and why that amount has been scratched from the budget this year.

It is a matter of gratification that the Government has not taken over the Calcutta Tramway Company and the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation. Had they taken it over our miseries would have been multiplied.

Whereas the sister Dominion, I mean the Pakistan Dominion, has removed the sales tax from vegetables and other food products but we are levying sales tax on the daily necessities of life, even the mustard oil. If you are aggrieved with the decision of the Sales Tax Officer you can appeal to the high authorities but affixing a stamp fee of 5 per cent. of the total amount levied. This fee is very high for if the appeal succeeds even then you lose that 5 per cent. It has now become a practice in the Sales Tax Department that the tax is levied at a very high figure and when you go up to the Sales Tax Assistant Commissioner or the Commissioner of Sales Tax and win your case you lose the 5 per cent. stamp fee that you have put on the appeal. You are aware, Sir, that while in the income-tax cases only annas eight is to be paid for stamp, in an appeal for sales tax you have to pay 5 per cent. of the total amount. The total accumulation from such fees runs into colossal figure.

(At this stage the member reached his time-limit but was allowed two minutes to finish his speech.)

Sir, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has stated that a Commission should be appointed to investigate the ratio of the profits of the industrialists to the percentage of labour and to ascertain as to how much is due to each of these contributory factors. These are big questions no doubt and we are confronted with bribery and corruption. Sir, there are only two ways to set Government right. One is by strong opposition in this House which cannot be had till next election. The other way is to help the Government to accelerate its tempo of corruption, bribery and nepotism so that the public whose cup of patience is becoming full may throw them out of office. Let us say ditto to what the Government does and help in the formation of

a potential public feeling against the Government till such time that they rise in revolt and overthrow this Government and replace them by better one.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the present object of the Congress is the establishment of a classless democratic state in India by peaceful means. Such a state can only be established by the elimination of existing differences in economic and social life. The elimination of social differences is beyond the scope of the subject under discussion. The differences in economic sphere can from the theoretical point of view be eliminated either by improving the economic condition of those who are low down in society or by levelling down those who are high on the ladder or by a combination of both of these processes.

The Hon'ble the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has stated that the first, i.e., levelling up is the only possible way. But this method has not proved successful up till now in any part of the globe. The condition of the common man in many of the countries in Europe and America has been elevated to a considerable extent. In the United States of America the income of none is less than Rs. 500 a month. There many industrial and agricultural labourers have motor-cars of their own. In Switzerland even the humblest labourer earns Rs. 400 a month. In England no worker earns less than Rs. 300 a month. Does this elevation in economic condition of the common man mean advance towards socialism? Not a bit. If the economic condition of the common man has been improved by 1 the economic condition of the capitalists has probably improved by 2. So the difference in economic condition instead of being less has rather increased. So our Hon'ble Finance Minister's contention that the path to socialism lies not in levelling down the men at the top but in pulling up the men at the bottom may theoretically be all right but will practically be never possible.

If Socialism is really to be established, then the men at the top will have to be gradually pulled down and the men at the bottom will have to be gradually pulled up.

The object of the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947, according to which Tribunals are being set up in West Bengal and other provinces with a view to adjudicate cases of Industrial Disputes, is to eliminate difference as to income between the employers and the employed. This is why as a rule an award given by a Tribunal is not to last more than a year. At the end of this period the case may again be referred to the Tribunal and this process may be repeated until as a result of successive awards there will remain practically no difference in income between the two parties.

The Finance Minister has complained that whereas in England in the post-war period 20 per cent. of her national dividend is being devoted to the creation of new capital and in France 25 per cent., in India not more than 3 to 4 per cent. of the total national income goes to capital formation in a normal year. For this unsatisfactory condition in India the Finance Minister holds the high rates of income-tax, limitation of dividend, profit sharing and also the fear of nationalisation to be responsible. He apparently does not like profit sharing and limitation of dividend as by these means the money instead of remaining confined to the hands of the few become, like nature's rains, distributed among the whole nation. The reason for his disfavour of such measures is understandable but he does not explain how without such measures it is possible to gradually pull up those who actually by their labour produce national wealth, i.e., the workers in field and factories. While mentioning limitation of dividend and profit sharing, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister should have also mentioned about the sum of Rs. 100 crores which the cloth manufacturers and dealers practically stole from the pocket of the poor after decontrol of cloth. Where is that huge sum lying? Why that is not being invested in new industries? What

about the huge sum which the industrialists and businessmen all over India earned by means fair and foul during the war? Why that sum is remaining idle? Why that sum is not being invested? Fear of nationalisation will probably be the answer. Why the capitalists are so very afraid of nationalisation? A nation is built up on the sacrifice of patriots and is meant for the good of all. India has become free through such sacrifices and the fruits of freedom will be enjoyed by all sections of the people, irrespective of whether they made any sacrifice or not. Are not the capitalists and businessmen patriots like so many others? Are they not willing to invest a part, if not the whole, of their accumulated money for the sake of the nation?

The Finance Minister while admitting that in some lines production was no doubt higher in 1948 than in the previous year, regrets that it has not been up to our needs and installed capacity in different industries. We certainly want more production, as without it the present poverty of the nation cannot be removed. But how with the gradually increasing cost of living index and glaring differences as to standard of living between the employer and the employed, the latter may have the requisite incentive for increasing production? Poverty, though painful, is still tolerable when it is shared more or less equally by all sections of the community. But when one section has enough of food and the other section barely anything, when one section lives in palatial buildings and the other section does not get even a damp room in a dirty *bustee*, when one section has enough of cloth and the other section does not possess even rags to hide shame, wherefrom will come the necessary energy and incentive for more work with a view to have more production. It is futile to refer to countries like America, England and France where in spite of wide gulf as to income between the employer and the employed, the latter work hard in order to produce more. First of all, India is India. The mental make-up of Indians is fundamentally different from that of any other nation in the world. In countries like America, England and France there is not that glaring difference in the standard of living as we have here. As a result of highly developed industrialisation and long-continued exploitation of the undeveloped countries of the world it has been possible to raise the general standard of living in those countries to such an extent that even the common man lives in a fairly good house, puts on fairly good clothing and eats fairly good food. But the picture in India is absolutely different. Here by the side of big palatial buildings can be found *bustees* which though unfit for the living of cattle are inhabited by millions of people not necessarily uneducated. Similar is the glaring difference with regard to food, clothing, medical and educational facilities. These differences the people tolerated as long as they were dependent. But after the attainment of independence they are unwilling to tolerate these differences any more, specially as during the fight for independence the people were freely told that as soon as independence was attained even the common man will have enough of food, clothing, etc. Mahatmaji by independence practically meant these. Hence after the attainment of independence his mind was not at ease. It was yearning for social and economic independence. To fulfil his wishes and to satisfy the natural desire of the suffering millions, the Congress at the last Jaipur Session has made the establishment of classless democracy by peaceful means as its next objective. The aim of the central and various provincial Congress Governments should be to help by suitable legislation in the speedy establishment of such a society. It is a pity that the Budget Speech of our Finance Minister instead of being helpful in the matter has been rather obstructive. He has spoken against the interest of the common man and supported the cause of the rich.

Whatever a certain Minister may or may not say, the writing on the wall is clear. The masses of India are determined to go ahead and classless democracy will soon be an established fact in India. In order that in such

a democracy all, including the rich of today, can live fairly comfortably it is essential that production must be increased as India is so poor at present that even though all the wealth of the country be divided equally among all, the picture will be one of universal poverty.

So the duty of all governments in India is now mainly two-fold:—

(1) To pass such laws as will help in the progress of the country towards classless democracy in a peaceful way.

(2) To adopt such measures as are likely to increase the all-round production of the country.

I have already discussed the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister from the ideological point of view. Let me now see how the budget stands as far as productive efforts are concerned.

Of the various products industrial and agricultural products are the most vital for a nation. Under the head "Industry", there is nothing new in the budget. We have got the same Barrackpur Electrical Concern, the silk, gur, khadi, and hand-made paper industry and the same ceramic and tanning institute. I was for some time the Minister for Industries of the Government of West Bengal. I visited the ceramic and tanning institute. I saw them in a hibernating condition. I think they are still in that condition. I was responsible for the starting of gur, khadi and hand-made paper industry by the Government. I was also responsible for the granting of a fairly large sum for the development of silk industry. The planning committee for heavy chemical industries in collaboration with Bihar was also considered in my time. So nothing new has been done. The old ones are also not advancing to the desired extent. There is not the idea of vigorous development behind them. In my time besides Barrackpur there were several other electrification schemes. I am afraid these schemes have been given up. All of us should remember that without electricity no nation in this age can grow. So electrification should get the top priority in the development of industry.

Besides electricity and the few items mentioned above, there are so many things to do in the industrial field. I know the resources of a Provincial Government are limited. Even with this limited resources the Provincial Government can do a lot provided it is serious.

As to agriculture, the new year's budget is a decidedly improved one on the current year's, as expense to the extent of about a crore of rupees more has been estimated. As to agriculture the position of West Bengal is rather difficult. It is, as it is, deficit as to paddy and wheat. On the top of this already more than 15 lakhs of refugees have come here. The West Bengal Government is to feed them. There is besides the problem of jute. The life of Calcutta largely depends on the existence of the one hundred jute mills on the two banks of the Hooghly. Jute for these mills comes mainly from East Bengal. Last year West Bengal had to buy jute from East Bengal to the value of nearly one hundred crore of rupees. This is not at all a happy position. West Bengal in conjunction with the neighbouring provinces of Hindustan should try to be selfsufficient as to jute as soon as possible. In order to make up the deficiency both as to paddy and jute, West Bengal will have to produce much more in a bigha of land than at present. To be able to do so better seeds will have to be provided in gradually increasing quantity, old tanks will have to be re-excavated with the quickest speed possible, the various irrigation projects will have to be pushed through boldly and more manure is to be purchased. During my recent tour in Malda district, I found that due to shortage of fire wood and want of coal, all the cowdung there is burnt up. As a result no manure is used in paddy and other fields and production as a result is as low as four maunds a bigha. God only knows when it will be possible to supply chemical manures in sufficent quantity and what will be their ultimate effect on the soil but we may easily think of human manure which

is wasted to such an extent. In many village and town meetings I spoke about the use of this valuable manure. The people seemed not only not to resent but rather to appreciate it. If the Government seriously wants to introduce the use of this manure, I am sure it will succeed.

If the small province of West Bengal, with its multifarious liabilities, is to prosper, its industries and agriculture must be developed in a planned way and to an unlimited extent. For such development to be possible, its roads must not only be increased in number but must also be modernised. For this it is essential that the roads should gradually be taken over by the Government from the local bodies. I am glad to note that a definite move has already been made in the matter and 230 miles of local bodies roads are being thus taken over. I congratulate the Government for this progressive step.

I also congratulate the Government for the larger estimates made for education, medicine and public health for the next year as compared to the revised estimates for the current year. These are the departments which next to food, clothing and housing are vital for a nation. I am glad to note that in order to increase the salaries of poorly paid primary school teachers a sum of Rs. 8,00,000 has been estimated. In this connection I must say that some amount should have been estimated for the teachers of secondary schools and professors of private colleges as well.

I am glad to note that a fairly large amount has been estimated for the refugees from East Bengal. What is vital for them is quick rehabilitation. I hope the Government will be seriously up and doing in the matter and so arrange that a very large section of them, if not all, be rehabilitated before the next monsoon.

I am sorry not to find any provision for housing. The housing problem has become extremely serious in West Bengal and it is high time that the Government should make a serious move in the matter. If the Bombay Government can take definite steps in this direction, why not the West Bengal Government?

To sum up, considered from ideological point of view the Budget Speech has been not only a failure but reactionary to an undesirable extent but if we go into actual detail, the budget, in some respects is undoubtedly progressive. Before concluding, I must warn the Government against imposing any further tax on mustard oil, fire-wood and coal. Already the people are resenting the persistent high increase in prices. Further increase in price of articles of everyday use may be like the last straw that breaks the camel's back.

Janab A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister in presenting the budget for the first year of independence said: "Today we breathe the air of freedom and the power to shape our destiny lies in the hands of the people." Sir, I wonder what has led the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to realise this year that freedom has touched the surface and not the core! The matter became more confused and complicated when we hear a chorus of scathing condemnation of our second national budget by the members of the Government benches themselves by whose votes this budget is to get through. Sir, is it merely an election stunt of individual members of the Government Party for deceiving their own constituencies or is it an attempt to create a ministerial tangle for creating a comfortable place for themselves in the future arrangements? In the first case, one need not take it seriously and in the second case we are not at all interested because it is a domestic affair of the happy family now constituting the Government Party. These are the men who stand to protest against the budget which contains the extended provision of application of sales tax and they only the other day in this chamber supported the new Sales Tax Bill which provided the levy of tax on a much more wider scale than it was contemplated in the original Sales Tax Act of 1941.

Public memory is short, but public vigilance after independence has become more alert than it was before. Whatever the individual members of the Congress Party may say, the people are not prepared to discriminate between one member and another of the Ministerial Party but will hold the Congress as such responsible for the budget. Any attempt to deceive the people by blowing hot and cold at the same time—possible by arrangement—is bound to end in colossal failure.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Congress critics of the Congress budget have made valuable constructive suggestions and I can hardly improve upon them. I shall be content if the Government accept the suggestions as sound and practical. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it will be not a new thing if I say that the budget lacks a comprehensive plan for the improvement of the living conditions of the common man. Sir, it is clear from the speeches of the honourable members who have already spoken that the consensus of opinion of this House is in my favour. I, however, appreciate the difficulties of the Government in this matter. Unfortunately for the people of Bengal the Government of West Bengal do not, after the attainment of Independence, enjoy that amount of provincial autonomy which it had under the Government of India Act of 1935. The people of Bengal are watching with deep concern the tendency of the Centre to centralise all powers. I have had some experience that no Government can prepare a comprehensive plan, however good-intentioned it may be, unless it knows precisely what in future is going to be the financial position of the country; it is not known yet how much independence the province of West Bengal will enjoy when the new Constitution will come into force. In this uncertain, indefinite and unsteady context no Finance Minister can satisfy the people and launch a comprehensive scheme having far-reaching consequences. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister's remark that Bengal does not receive due consideration of the Centre gives much food for thought for the people of West Bengal. I think that this undesirable helplessness of the Province of West Bengal and her dependence on the sweet will of the Centre have disillusioned the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and probably this has led him to realise that so far as West Bengal is concerned, freedom has only touched the surface and not the heart. The solution of the problem of West Bengal, therefore, lies in the ability of her leaders to secure either by negotiations or otherwise maximum autonomy of the province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after these general observations, I would crave the indulgence of the House to permit me to refer to some specific matters.

Sir, I would particularly like to draw the attention of the Government to the remarks made by the honourable member coming from the Jhargram-*cum*-Ghatal General Constituency about State Bus. I would like the Government to see that ultimately it may not prove to be another "White Elephant" like the Civil Supplies Department. His remarks about lack of rural bias in this year's budget deserves careful consideration of the Government specially in view of the insufficient provisions for improving rural health, drinking water supply, road construction and rural education. We were surprised to hear from him that our National Government did not think it fit to levy a licence fee on the Calcutta Turf Club whereas our popular National Government did not hesitate to levy tax on daily necessaries of common man, such as mustard oil, coal, firewood, etc.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not one of those who believe that with the dawn of independence we shall require no police, but the question is whether such a heavy expenditure as 14·5 per cent. of our total revenue should be consumed for the maintenance of the police. In spite of huge paraphernalia of police and also of the sufficient precautions taken by the Government in the border areas, smuggling was and, I might say, is a common feature. The recent incidents at Dum Dum, Jessop & Co., and

Basirhat do not reflect much credit on the ability, vigilance or soundness of the organisation of our Special Branch and the Intelligence Branch of the police. I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you, Sir, to the remarks made by the honourable member from Murshidabad General Constituency who said that even when co-operation was offered to the police, they were reluctant to accept it. I think, Sir, that it is not his experience only but many of us have the same experience. We do not know what steps the Government is taking so that our present police set-up can fit in with the changed conditions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must congratulate the Government for their sympathetic attitude for the co-operative movement of the province. If we ever aim at equitable distribution of wealth, it can be possible only through the co-operative basis. I am glad to find that the principle of separation of audit from administration has been accepted and the offices of divisional and district auditors have been created. But merely the creation of the post of district and divisional auditors will not cure the disease. If we want to bring the co-operative movement on a sound business line the audit should entirely be separated from the administration. I think the Government would do well to consider whether the audit of the Co-operative Societies could be taken up by the Accountant-General. If that is not possible immediately the least they should do, is to completely separate the audit from the administration and the head of the audit department should be independent of the control of the Registrar of the Co-operative Societies.

Sir, refugees from East Bengal is another vexed problem both from the financial and the administration side. To my mind the solution will not lie in rehabilitating these refugees in West Bengal but attempt must be made to repatriate these refugees to their original homes. Otherwise these Inter-Dominion Agreements, Conferences and creation of Minority Boards are meaningless. These are purely palliative measures. I know how difficult it is to repatriate these refugees to their original homes because it involves great risk to the popularity of a Government or for matter of that, the party in power. Still I feel that Government should do this for the sake of the greatest good of the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not one of those who indulge in cheap slogans and as such I do not believe that we are ever going to have Krishak-Proja-Majdoor Raj or a classless society, because nobody is prepared for this revoluntary change. There are a few who may try to create confusion in the country but that will help nobody. It will only bring disaster. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister has referred in his budget speech about the need for a new outlook. Now the question is, what is going to be that "new outlook". One would say, why do we now talk of a new outlook when Mahatmaji has already indicated what should be the outlook of Free India. But my question to him would be, are we sincerely going to follow that outlook or merely going to use it as a sort of cheap claptrap?

Sir, it is time that one should consider whether the old costly bureaucratic administrative machinery should be allowed to continue or the Government would gradually introduce a new set-up which will fit in with the conditions of a poor country like India. The sooner it is done the better for everybody. Otherwise we shall only give a handle to the people who are opposed to this Government or, in fact, opposed to all constituted authorities to find loopholes in the administration and try to mislead people. My suggestions are not offered with any spirit of criticism; we, as minorities, would like that there should be peace in the country by proper adjustment of all conflicting interests so that we may also live peacefully.

Sir, before I resume my seat I would like to say a few words about the recent creation of Minority Boards in West Bengal in accordance with the Inter-Dominion Agreement. The creation of the Minority Boards will not

solve any of the problems of minorities unless the majority is prepared to change their outlook. The question of communal outlook of minorities does not arise. The majority community may not be fully aware of the difficulties of the minority community, because on every step they are to depend on the good will and generosity of the majority community. Communalism becomes a menace only when the majority is communal, and communalism of the minority, when the majority is generous and non-communal, is not of any consequence. Let us hope, Sir, that the time is not far distant when we should forget that one belongs to the majority community or the minority community and we might think that we all belong to the soil of India and we should share the joys and woes together. This observation of mine has been inspired by the utterances of the late lamented Sri Kiran Sankar Roy who said in this House as Home Minister that the Muslims, Christians and Buddhists are not minorities, but the anti-social elements of society would in future be the minority. Let us forget the past and create a new environment by our combined efforts in which the question of majority and minority on communal lines will be a thing of the past.

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, আমি সর্বপ্রথমে আমাদের অর্থসচিবকে প্রশংসা করছি, তিনি একটা অসমর্থনযোগ্য জিনিষকে এমন সুন্দরভাবে সমর্থন করেছেন যে তাঁর বাজেটের প্রশংসা না করতে পারলেও তাঁর ওকালতি করার ক্ষমতার প্রশংসা না করে পারছি না। একদা তিনি এই পরিষদ গৃহেই লীগ সরকারের অর্থসচিব হিসাবে সোস্যালিজ্‌মের পরিপূর্ণ জয়গান করে ও ইংরাজি ছোট একটা কথা "efficiency"র দোহাই দিয়ে তাঁর মাথাবোটা শাসন ব্যবস্থার বাজেটের অবতারণা করেছিলেন। আমরা কংগ্রেসীরা তার তীব্র প্রতিবাদ করেছিলাম। আমরা বলেছিলাম efficiency নিশ্চয়ই আমরা চাই, কিন্তু দেশকে শ্মশানে পরিণত করে নর-কঙ্কালের উপর এই efficiencyকে আমরা গড়তে চাই না। "Efficiency must we have indeed, but efficiency must not be built on the bleached bone of the people." তারপর প্রতি বৎসর আমরা লীগের মাথাবোটা শাসন ব্যবস্থার বাজেটের ঘোরতর প্রতিবাদ করে এসেছি। Cut Motionএর পর Cut Motion এনেছি। Division call করেছি। চেঁচামেচি করে এই পরিষদ ঘর ভেঙ্গে ফেলার উপক্রম করেছি। আজ অদৃষ্টের পরিহাসে ইংরেজ পলাতক, পশ্চিম বাংলার শাসন ব্যবস্থা আমাদেরই হাতে, আর শ্রীনলিনী রঞ্জন সরকার কংগ্রেসী অর্থসচিব। আজ আশ্চর্য্য হয়ে দেখছি তাঁর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় সোস্যালিজ্‌মের জন্য একটু ভুরো কান্নাও নেই। মুখোস খুলে ফেলে একেবারে সরাসরি ধনতান্ত্রিকতার জয়গান। অথচ এটা কংগ্রেসের সুনির্দ্দিষ্ট আদর্শ ও নীতির বিরোধী। এই সেদিনও জয়পুর কংগ্রেসে শ্রেণীহীন সমাজ প্রতিষ্ঠাই কংগ্রেসের লক্ষ্য বলে ঘোষিত হয়েছে। এবং এই জন্যই নিতান্ত অনিচ্ছা সত্ত্বেও বাজেটের সমালোচনা না করে পারছি না।

যদি লীগ সরকারের বাজেট ও শাসন ব্যবস্থাকে আমরা মাথাবোটা বলে নিন্দিত করে থাকি তবে আমাদের এই আরো মাথাবোটা শাসন ব্যবস্থাকে আমরা প্রশংসা করবো কি করে। দৃষ্টান্ত দেই—পশ্চিম বাংলা অবিভক্ত বাংলার এক-তৃতীয়াংশ। অতএব শাসন ও পুলিশ খাতে আগেকার দিনের মাথাবোটা ব্যবস্থাকে নজীর স্বরূপ মেনে নিলেও পূর্ব্বের এক-তৃতীয়াংশের বেশী হওয়া উচিত নয়। কিন্তু কি হচ্চে তাই দেখুন।

অবিভক্ত বাংলায় ১৯৪৫-৪৬ সালে শাসন খাতে ব্যয় হয়েছিল ২ কোটি ৭৪ লক্ষ টাকা; পশ্চিম বাংলায় ঐ হিসাবে হওয়া উচিত ৯১ লক্ষ টাকা। সর্ব্বাপেক্ষা উচ্চ ব্যয় অবিভক্ত বাংলায় শাসন খাতে ১৯৪৬-৪৭ সালে তিন কোটি ২৫ লক্ষ টাকা। তাকে নজীর ধরলেও পশ্চিম বাংলায় হওয়া উচিত ১ কোটি ৮ লক্ষ টাকা। কিন্তু সেই স্থানে এবার আমরা শাসন খাতে ব্যয়বরাদ্দ করছি ২ কোটি ২১ লক্ষ টাকা, অর্থাৎ দ্বিগুণেরও অধিক। অবিভক্ত বাংলায় পুলিশ খাতে ১৯৪৫-৪৬ সালে ব্যয় হয় ৩ কোটি ৫৮ লক্ষ টাকা; তাকে নজীর করলে পশ্চিম বাংলায় হওয়া উচিত ছিল ১ কোটি ১৯ লক্ষ টাকা। ১৯৪৬-৪৭ সালে সর্ব্বোচ্চ ব্যয় অবিভক্ত বাংলায় পুলিশ খাতে হয় ৪ কোটি ৭৭ লক্ষ টাকা। ঐ হিসাবে হলেও পশ্চিম বাংলায় ব্যয়বরাদ্দ হতে পারে ১ কোটি ৫৯ লক্ষ টাকা। কিন্তু আমরা ব্যয়বরাদ্দ করছি ৪ কোটি ৬২ লক্ষ টাকা অর্থাৎ লীগ Standardএর তিন গুণেরও বেশী। এমন কি অবিভক্ত বাংলায় ১৯৪৫-৪৬ সালের খরচ অপেক্ষা ৪ লক্ষ টাকা বেশী।

এ পুলিশ কার জন্য? এরা জনসাধারণকে রক্ষা করছে না মন্ত্রীদের রক্ষা করছে। Wirelessএর জন্য Revised Estimateএ ব্যয় হয়েছে ৭ লক্ষ ৪৬ হাজার টাকা। আগামী বৎসর টাকিতে Wireless

Head Quartersএর জন্য ব্যয় হবে ৫ লক্ষ টাকা। অথচ সেদিন কার্য্যকালে দেখা গেল Wireless কোন সাহায্যই করলো না। মাত্র কয়েকটি যুবক দলদল থেকে বসিরহাট পর্য্যন্ত দিবাভাগে কয়েক ঘণ্টা ধরে তাণ্ডব চালালো। গুপ্ত পুলিশের জন্য এত ব্যয় করে কি ফলোদয় হচ্চে? কোন খবরই তারা দিতে পারে না। একজন পলাতক রাষ্ট্রদ্রোহীকে যারা ধরতে পারে না তাদের পিছনে অযথা পয়সা খরচ করবো কেন।

মিথ্যা সমালোচনা মিথ্যা গঞ্জনা দেশে খুব আছে মানি। অর্থসচিব যাকে বলেছেন "Pitiless self-examination" তা কি আমরা করছি? "Realities of our problem"এর দিকে কি সত্যই আমরা নজর দিচ্ছি? আমাদের শাসন ব্যবস্থা কি দলদলীন নয়? দুর্নীতি কি ওতঃপ্রোতভাবে এর মধ্যে নেই? Fileএর স্তূপ Writers' Buildingsএ যেভাবে পড়ছে তাতে মন্ত্রিগণ কি তার তলায় চাপা পড়ে যাবেন না? আগের নিম্ন কর্মচারীগণ ইংরাজ চলে যাওয়ার পর উচ্চ পদে অধিষ্ঠিত হয়েছেন। তাঁদের প্রায় সকলের মাইনেই আগের থেকে অন্ততঃ হাজার টাকা করে বেড়েছে। এমন কি পাকিস্থানের কর্মচারিগণ পর্য্যন্ত যে ত্যাগ স্বীকার করেছেন তাঁরা তাও করেননি। যাঁরা উচ্চ পদে যেতে পারেননি তাঁরা নিরন্তর ভাবছেন কি করে উচ্চ পদে যাবেন। কে বা দেশের কথা ভাবে, কে বা জনকল্যাণে আত্মোৎসর্গ করে। এই যেখানে আবহাওয়া সেখানে সেই সব কর্মচারিগণের পেছনে দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের কোটি কোটি টাকা কেন ব্যয় হবে? অর্থের অপব্যয় ছাড়া কি তাতে দেশের কোন কল্যাণ সাধিত হবে? গতানুগতিকের ফাঁদে মন্ত্রীরা যেন আটকে পড়েছেন, অচল শাসন ব্যবস্থারূপ Octopusএর শুঁড় তাদের ঘিরে ফেলেছে। এর খপ্পর থেকে এঁদের যেন নিস্তার নেই। যদি দেশের লোক বুঝতো এরা দুর্নীতি, অযোগ্যতা দূর করে বহুদিনের পুরাতন জীর্ণ শাসন গৌরব সংস্কারের জন্য প্রাণপণ উঠে পড়ে লেগেছেন তাহলে তারা নিশ্চয়ই সাড়া দিত। দুর্নীতি দমনের সাধু ধর্ম প্রচেষ্টার ত একটা দৃষ্টান্তও আমরা দেখছিনে। একটা Anti-corruption Department হয়েছে, তার কর্মচারিগণ আবার জেলার S. P.'র অধীনে। যদি তারা স্বতন্ত্র Department হতো তাও বুঝতাম। অন্ততঃ তারা জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের অধীনে হলেও বুঝতাম। S. P.'র অধীনস্থ কর্মচারীরা কি রুই কাতলার গায়ে হাত দিতে সাহস পায়। কনষ্টেবল আর দারোগা চুণোপুঁটি নিয়ে টানাটানি করে লাভ কি। দৈত্যকুলে যে প্রহ্লাদ সেই সে ত সবাই জানে। ওপর ঠিক করলে ওসব আপনা হতেই ঠিক হবে। আমরা প্রাণপণ যদি করতাম, যদি তা করতে গিয়ে অকৃতকার্য্যও হতাম তাহলেও জনসাধারণ আমাদের appreciate করত, কিন্তু এই বাজেট নিয়ে তাদের সামনে উপস্থিত হলে কেন তারা আমাদের গতানুগতিক বলবে না? সময় নেই তাই জাতি গঠনমূলক ব্যাপারে কেবল কৃষির কথা বলেই শেষ করবো।

পশ্চিম বঙ্গে দুইটি প্রধান কৃষি সমস্যা—

(১) যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে খাদ্যশস্য উৎপাদন,

(২) যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে পাট উৎপাদন।

এই দুইটিই আশু সমস্যা এবং তার সমাধানের জন্য আগামী বৎসরের বাজেটে কোনও বিশেষ ইঙ্গিত পাওয়া যায় না।

দামোদর উপত্যকার মত পরিকল্পনা থেকে সন্তোষজনক ফল লাভ করতে বেশ কয়েক বছর কেটে যাবে। তা ছাড়া এরকম দু'একটি পরিকল্পনা পশ্চিমবঙ্গের কৃষি সমস্যার আংশিক সমাধান করতে পারবে কিন্তু আমাদের কৃষি সমস্যা ব্যাপক দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী নিয়ে দেখা দরকার। বাজেটে এরকম দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী বা এরকম পরিকল্পনার কোনও উল্লেখ নেই।

সরকারী হিসাবমতে ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সালে পশ্চিমবঙ্গে প্রায় ১১৪ লক্ষ একর জমিতে চাষ করা হয়। এর মধ্যে মাত্র ১৪ লক্ষ একর জমিতে দুবার ফসল জন্মান হয়। অর্থাৎ ১০০ লক্ষ একর জমিতে কেবল একবার মাত্র ফসল করা হয়। এই ১০০ লক্ষ একর জমির বেশ কিছু অংশ নিশ্চয়ই দুবার ফসলের যোগ্য। অথচ এই ভাবে ফসল যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে বাড়াবার কোন সুসম্বদ্ধ চেষ্টা আজ পর্য্যন্ত করা হয়নি, এবং বাজেটের ব্যয়বরাদ্দের হিসাব দেখেও মনে হয় না যে অদূর ভবিষ্যতে পশ্চিমবঙ্গের সরকার এরকম কোনও পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করতে ব্যগ্র অথবা তার জন্যে যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে অর্থ ব্যয় করিতে ইচ্ছুক। ১৯১০ সাল পর্য্যন্ত জাপানকে খাবার জন্য নিজের দেশে ধান নিয়ে যেতে হত, কিন্তু ভাল পরিকল্পনা নিয়ে ১০ বৎসরের চেষ্টায় তারা খাদ্য ফসল এত বাড়িয়েছিল যে ১৯২০ সাল থেকে দেশের চাহিদা মিটিয়ে বাইরে পর্য্যন্ত খাদ্য ফসল পাঠাতে পারতো।

পশ্চিমবঙ্গে যথেষ্ট পরিমাণ পাট উৎপাদন বাড়ানো একান্তই প্রয়োজনীয় হয়ে উঠেছে। স্বাধীনতা লাভের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বঙ্গ বিভাগের ফলেই এই সমস্যা বিশেষভাবে দেখা দিয়েছে। সমগ্র ভারতবর্ষের ১১৭টি পাটকলের মধ্যে

১০০টি কলকাতার আশেপাশে অবস্থিত। পশ্চিমবঙ্গের পাটকলগুলির বর্তমান পাটের চাহিদা প্রায় ৬৫ লক্ষ বেল্। কিন্তু গত বৎসর পশ্চিমবঙ্গে মাত্র ৮$\frac{১}{২}$ লক্ষ বেল পাট হয়েছিল। সেইজন্যে পূর্ব পাকিস্থান থেকে ৫০ লক্ষ বেল পাট আমদানী করবার ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে এবং কয়েক লক্ষ বেল পাট আসাম, বিহার এবং উড়িষ্যা প্রদেশ থেকেও কলকাতায় আসছে। পাটের জন্য পূর্ব পাকিস্থানের ওপর নির্ভর করায় অনেক বাধা ও বিঘ্নের উৎপত্তি হয়। অথচ পাটকলগুলিই পশ্চিমবঙ্গের সর্বপ্রধান শিল্প। তা ছাড়া ভারতবর্ষের পক্ষে বৈদেশিক টাকা অর্জন করার বর্তমানে প্রধান উপায় হচ্চে পাটজাত সামগ্রী রপ্তানি করা। এই রপ্তানির ফলে আমরা বছরে প্রায় ১১০ কোটি টাকার বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা পাই, এবং এর অর্দ্ধেকের বেশী হচ্চে ডলার, যা সমগ্র পৃথিবীতে আজ দুষ্প্রাপ্য। জাতির উন্নতির দিক থেকে পশ্চিমবঙ্গের পাটশিল্পের যে আজ এতখানি প্রয়োজনীয়তা তা এই থেকেই প্রমাণিত হয়।

পশ্চিমবঙ্গে পাটচাষ যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে বৃদ্ধির আশু প্রয়োজনীয়তা সম্বন্ধে কোনও সন্দেহের অবকাশই থাকা উচিৎ নয়। এইভাবে পাটের উৎপাদন বাড়ানো যায়। যদি এক ফসলী জমির শতকরা দশ ভাগেরও ধান বা অন্য খাদ্য শস্যের আগে পাট বোনা যায়, তাহলে দশ লক্ষ একর জমি পাওয়া যায়। ১৯৪৮ সালে পশ্চিমবঙ্গে মাত্র তিন লক্ষ একর জমিতে পাট বোনা হয়। অতএব চাষের জমিতে আরো বেশী চাষ করে মোট ১৩ লক্ষ একর পাট বোনা সম্ভব হতে পারে। অন্য দিকে বৈজ্ঞানিক গবেষণার দ্বারা উৎকৃষ্ট বীজ উৎপন্ন করা দরকার। বর্তমানে পশ্চিমবঙ্গে একরপ্রতি প্রায় ১৩ মণ পাট হয়। উৎকষ্ট বীজের দ্বারা এই ফলনকে পূর্ববঙ্গের ফলনের মত বাড়ানো যেতে পারে অর্থাৎ একরপতি ১৬।১৭ মণ করা যেতে পারে। এইভাবে জমির পরিমাণ এবং বীজের ফলন বাড়িয়ে এক পশ্চিমবঙ্গেই ৪০ লক্ষ বেল পাট জন্মানো সম্ভব। এতে খাদ্যশস্য উৎপাদনে কোনও ব্যাঘাত হবে না। ভারতবর্ষের অন্যান্য প্রদেশেও এই একই উপায়ে পাটের চাষ বাড়ানো যেতে পারে। যদি আমাদের সরকার একটি ব্যাপক পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করেন এবং তাকে কার্য্যকরী করার জন্যে যথাযথ অর্থের সংস্থান করেন, তাহলে মনে হয় যে অতি অল্প সময়ের মধ্যেই পশ্চিমবঙ্গের পাট সমস্যার সমাধান করা যেতে পারে।

কিন্তু আগামী বছরের বাজেটে ব্যয়ের তালিকায় পাট সমস্যার কোনও উল্লেখ নাই বা তার জন্য বিশেষ কোন ব্যয়ের ব্যবস্থাও নাই।

Janab MAHAMMAD SAYEED MIA : মাননীয় ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়, স্বাধীন ভারতের দ্বিতীয় বৎসরে পশ্চিমবঙ্গের অর্থসচিব শ্রীযুক্ত নলিনীরঞ্জন সরকার ১৯৪৯-৫০ সালের জন্য এই পরিষদে যে বাজেট পেশ করেছেন তা দেখে আমরা নিতান্তই হতাশ হয়েছি। তিনি যেভাবে এই বাজেট রচনা করেছেন তাতে যারা ধনী তারা আরও ধনী হবে, আর যারা গরীব তারা আরও গরীব হবে। দেশের দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের দিকে দৃষ্টি রেখে এই বাজেট তৈয়ারী হয় নাই এবং এতে তাদের সত্যিকারের কোন কল্যাণ সাধন হবে না। পুঁজিবাদী ধনিক ও বণিক সমাজের স্বার্থকে ভিত্তি করেই এবং তাদের সুখসুবিধার জন্যই এই বাজেট প্রস্তুত করা হয়েছে। মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহোদয় গোড়াতেই গলদ করে ভুল নীতি ও বিকৃত দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীর ভিত্তিতে এই বাজেট রচনা করায় বাজেটের মূল উদ্দেশ্যই ব্যর্থ হয়েছে।

মাননীয় ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়, গত ২ শত বৎসর যাবৎ সাম্রাজ্যবাদী বিদেশী ইংরেজ বণিকরাজ নিজেদের স্বার্থসিদ্ধির উদ্দেশ্যে এবং সাম্রাজ্যবাদের বিশ্বগ্রাসী শোষণ ক্ষধা মিটাইবার জন্যই এই পরাধীন দেশের দরিদ্র জনসমাজের শীর্ষদেশে একদল বুর্জোয়া পুঁজিবাদী ধনিক, বণিক, মালিক ও জমিদার শ্রেণী গড়ে তুলেছিলেন এবং দোর্দণ্ডপ্রতাপে শাসন ও শোষণের জন্য আর একদল বুরোক্রাটিক উচ্চপদস্থ রাজকর্মচারী দিয়ে top-heavy administration সৃষ্টি করেছিলেন। এই দুই দলের যাঁতাকলের দ্বারা পেষণ ও শোষণ করে বিটিশ সাম্রাজ্যের second city এই সুখস্বর্গ কলিকাতা নগরী গড়েছিলেন। একধারে ইংরেজ সরকারের পরম অনুগ্রহে পরিপুষ্ট ও লালিত পালিত বঙ্গের ভাগ্যবিধাতা মুষ্টিমেয় পুঁজিবাদী বড়লোকের দল, আর অন্যধারে সরকারী লোকলোচনের অন্তরালে দেশজোড়া কোটি কোটি বুভুক্ষিত, সর্বহারা, জরাজীর্ণ, মুমূর্ষু, কঙ্কালসার পল্লীবাসী গরীবের দল; এই দল ইংরেজ বণিক রাজের দুই শত বৎসরের রাজত্বের পরিণাম। ইংরেজ বণিকের এই সর্বনাশকর নীতির ফলে সমাজ দেহের মাথাটা অস্বাভাবিকভাবে বড় হ'তে হ'তে পর্বতপমাণ হয়ে আকাশ ছুঁয়ে গেছে, আর বাকী গোটা দেহটা শুকিয়ে শুকিয়ে শীর্ণ ও অস্থিচর্মসার হয়ে মাটিতে মিশে যাবার উপক্রম হয়েছে। দুই শতাব্দীর এই জরাজীর্ণ সমাজপাকাদের উপরটাই বাৎসরিক বাজেটের মারফতে কোটি কোটি টাকা ব্যয়ে কেবল বাহ্যিক চুণকাম করা হয়েছে। আজ যখন দেশ স্বাধীন হয়েছে, তখন ইংরেজের শেখান বাহিরের চুণকাম করার পুরাতন পুঁথি ত্যাগ করে নতুন দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী নিয়ে আমাদের এই জনপ্রিয় সমাজপ্রাকারকে গোড়া থেকে পক্ক ও মজবুত

করে গড়ে তুলতে হবে। নচেৎ যে কোন মুহূর্তে ইহা আগাগোড়া ভেঙে চুরমার ও তুবিলাৎ হয়ে যাবে। দেশের আপামর লোকসমাজ বলতে অন্ন-বস্ত্র-শিক্ষা-স্বাস্থ্যহীন চিরশোষিত ও চিরউপেক্ষিত কোটি কোটি গ্রামবাসী কৃষক-প্রজার দল, বস্তীবাসী লক্ষ লক্ষ গরীব ও কারখানার মজুরমল এবং আফিসে আফিসে সহস্র সহস্র নিম্নস্তরের চাকুরে দলকেই বুঝায়। বর্তমান সভ্যতার মাপকাটিতে মানুষের মত মানুষ হয়ে বেঁচে থাকার উপযোগী ইহাদের সর্বনিম্ন (মিনিমাম) প্রয়োজন না মিটান পর্য্যন্ত রাজসরকারের একটি পয়সাও পুঁজিবাদী ও সুবিধাবাদী বড় লোকেদের সুখবিলাসের জন্য আইনতঃ, ন্যায়তঃ ও ধর্মতঃ খরচ হতে দেওয়া আর উচিত হবে না। মানবতার এই ন্যায়নীতিতে বিশ্বাসী হয়ে নূতন দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীর ভিত্তিতে স্বাধীন পশ্চিমবঙ্গের ভাগ্যনিয়ন্ত্রণকারী এই বাজেট রচনা করা অর্থসচিব মহোদয়ের উচিত ছিল। গত বৎসর তিনি তাঁর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় বলেছিলেন "It will be our aim to abjure any policy that may tend to concentrate wealth in the hands of a fortunate few, thereby making relatively the rich richer and the poor poorer." তারপর তাঁর সেই বক্তৃতার শেষে তিনি বলেছিলেন "Let us invoke the blessings of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, in all our endeavours to build up a society in which there will be no poverty, no feeling of high class or low class, a society in whose making the common man will have an effective voice and in which all communities, big or small, shall live in perfect harmony." কিন্তু এই এক বৎসরের মধ্যেই তিনি সেই "the common man" এবং তার জন্য "perfect harmony"র কথা ভুলে গিয়ে, সেই বিঘোষিত নীতি ও আদর্শের আমূল পরিবর্তন করে ফেলে বর্তমান বাজেট বক্তৃতায় বক্রোক্তি ক'রে বলেছেন "Sympathy with the poor, a passion for economic uplift and a sense of loathing for grave inequalities are all natural and noble emotions." পুঁজিবাদী ধনাঢ্য বণিক শ্রেণীর প্রতিনিধি তিনি, কিসে তাদের উন্নতি ও কল্যাণ হবে এবং কি উপায়ে তাদের ষোল আনার জায়গায় বিশ আনা স্বার্থ রক্ষিত হবে তাহা নিয়েই তিনি এত ব্যস্ত এবং এত কথা খরচ করে ফেলেছেন যে তাঁর বর্তমান বাজেট বক্তৃতা অহেতুক ও অযাচিত-ভাবে দীর্ঘ হয়ে পড়েছে। পশ্চিমবঙ্গের অর্থসচিবের পক্ষে কোন ভাগ্যবান শ্রেণীবিশেষের স্বার্থরক্ষার জন্য এত বেশী পক্ষপাতদুষ্ট ওকালতী ক'রতে যাওয়া সম্পূর্ণ অন্যায় ও অশোভন হয়েছে। তিনি বরং পশ্চিমবঙ্গের এই আইন সভায় এই শ্রেণীর ওকালতী বক্তৃতা না দিয়ে ভারত বণিক সমিতির সভায় দিলে কতকটা শোভা পাইত।

মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়! আমাদের অর্থসচিব সাহেব এই পুঁজিবাদী বণিক শ্রেণীর পক্ষ সমর্থন করতে গিয়ে তাঁর বাজেট ভাষণে বলেছেন "The attack on wealth is now fairly spread." অন্যস্থানে বলেছেন "It is one of the points of attack against businessmen and the rich class, etc." আবার আর এক জায়গায় বলেছেন "The road to wealth is not so easy and smooth as many seem to imagine. Further under present rate of income-tax and super-tax it is difficult, if not impossible, for any one to be wealthy in the accepted sense of the term." তিনি দেশের চিরবঞ্চিত ও চিরপশ্চাৎপদ লক্ষ লক্ষ দেশবাসীর কথা ভুলে গিয়ে তাঁর প্রিয়পাত্র শ্রেণী বিশেষের জন্যই তাঁর অন্তর্নিহিত পুঞ্জীভূত বেদনা ও দরদের সুর সপ্তমে তুলে বলেছেন "If all the wealth of the wealthy are taken over by the State it would not provide even early morning tea for 300 million people." অর্থসচিব মহোদয় বোধ হয় জানেন না যে বড় লোকেরা দৈনিক ভোর হ'তে রাত্রি পর্য্যন্ত যত কাপ চা খান তার এক কাপ চায়ের দামে দেশের অধিকাংশ গরীবের কোন প্রকারে এক সন্ধ্যা খাওয়া চলে। ইনকাম-ট্যাক্স দিতে দিতে বড়লোকদের পকেটের সব পয়সাই গভর্ণমেণ্টের ঘরে গিয়ে সেই পয়সায় কৃষক-মজুর-রাজ প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়ে গেছে এতথাও তিনি আমাদের শুনিয়েছেন। যেহেতু আইন সভার অধিকাংশ সদস্যই কৃষক-মজুর দ্বারা নির্বাচিত এবং তাঁর মতে যেহেতু কৃষক-মজুরের স্বার্থকেই বরাবর top priority দেওয়া হয়েছে সেই হেতু এদেশে কৃষক-মজুর-রাজ যে বিরাজ করছে এবিষয়ে অর্থসচিব মহোদয়ের অনুমাত্র সন্দেহ নাই। গান্ধীজী আজীবন ত্যাগবরণ ও প্রাণপাত করে ভারতের ৪০ কোটি নরনারীকে স্বাধীনতা দিয়ে গিয়েছেন, কিন্তু তাঁর চির-আকাঙ্ক্ষিত কৃষক-মজুর-প্রজা-রাজের স্বপ্নকে বাস্তবে পরিণত করার সম্পূর্ণ ভার সমগ্রদেশবাসীর উপর ছেড়ে গিয়েছেন। অর্থসচিব মহোদয় সেই মহান্ আদর্শের প্রতিও কটাক্ষপাত করতে ছাড়েন নি এবং যারা দরিদ্রের প্রতি সহানুভূতিবশতঃ গ্রামের আর্থিক উন্নয়নের কথা বলেন তাদের সেই মহৎ প্রচেষ্টাকে তিনি "বর্তমান যুগের রাষ্ট্রবিলাস সাম্যবাদের অন্ধ গোঁড়ামি" বলে আখ্যা দিতে পেরেছেন। কাজেই তাঁর মতে কৃষক-প্রজা-রাজ প্রতিষ্ঠা করতে হ'লে ইনকাম-ট্যাক্স করিয়ে পুঁজিবাদী শিল্পপতিগণকে অধিকতর সুযোগ

লাভের ব্যবস্থা করে দিতে হবে। সেই কারণেই তিনি বলেছেন "ঐশ্বর্য্যের শিখরদেশে যাঁরা বসে আছেন তাদেরকে নামাইয়া আনিলেই কৃষক-মজুর-প্রজাদের উন্নতি হবে না, যারা নীচে রয়েছে তাদেরকে টেনে উপর-ওয়ালাদের সমান করতে পারলেই মাত্র তাদের দুর্গতির অবসান হবে"। দরিদ্রকে দুর্ভাগ্যের অতল গহ্বর হ'তে টেনে তোলার নমুনা দেখাতে গিয়েই কি তিনি গরীবদের উপর নূতন নূতন ট্যাক্স ধার্য্য ও বড় লোকদের ইনকাম-ট্যাক্স মকুবের প্রস্তাব করেছেন? এই উদ্দেশ্যেই কি তিনি ১৯৪৯-৫০ সালের বাজেটে ১ কোটি ১১ লক্ষ টাকা ঘাটতি দেখিয়ে এই অর্থ সংগ্রহের জন্য দেয়াশলাই, সরিষার তৈল, জ্বালানি কাঠ, কয়লা, খবরের কাগজ ইত্যাদি নিত্য প্রয়োজনীয় দ্রব্যের উপর বিক্রয়-কর ধার্য্য করিয়েছেন? বর্ত্তমান দুর্দ্দিনে যখন দরিদ্র দেশবাসী অন্ন-বস্ত্র-খাদ্য সমস্যার দারুণ চাপে "ত্রাহি, ত্রাহি" করছে তখন তাদের উপর এই অন্যায় শুল্ক করভার চাপাইবার দুঃসাহস না করাই উচিত ছিল। অর্থসচিব মহোদয় তাঁর এই চরম অদূরদর্শিতার জন্য বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্ট ও আইন সভাকে দেশজোড়া দুর্নাম ও কলঙ্কভাজন করতে চলেছেন--তাহা তিনি ধনিক-বণিক শ্রেণীর ঐশ্বর্য্যের উচ্চশিখরে বসে ভেবে দেখবার অবসর পাচ্ছেন না। ১৯৪৯-৫০ সালের মূল বাজেটের অঙ্কগুলির দিকে চাহিলেই স্পষ্ট প্রতীয়মান হবে যে বাজেটে যে পরিমাণ খরচ বরাদ্দ করা হয় প্রকৃত প্রস্তাবে সরকার সেই পরিমাণ টাকা খরচ করে উঠতে পারেন না। অথচ এই সব ভুয়া অঙ্কের উপর নির্ভর ক'রেই জনসাধারণের ঘাড়ে যে ট্যাক্সের বোঝা একবার চাপিয়ে দেওয়া হয় তা আর নামে না। সরকারী দপ্তর সম্প্রসারণের দরুণ এবং উচ্চ রাজকর্ম্মচারীদের সংখ্যা ও বেতন এবং ভাতা বৃদ্ধির দরুণ যে ১ কোটি টাকা খরচ বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে তা কমিয়ে দিলেই এই ঘাটতি অনায়াসে পূরণ হতে পারে। বর্ত্তমানে জরুরী নয় এমন বহু Development Schemeএর ছড়াছড়ি, এর জন্য ব্যয়বাহুল্য কমিয়ে দিয়েও এই ঘাটতি পূরণ হ'তে পারে।

মাননীয় ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়! বিদেশী ইংরেজ আমলে দেখা গিয়েছে যে দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের রক্ত-জল-করা টাকার প্রধান অংশ সরকারী বড় বড় অফিস পরিচালনায় ও পুলিশ-মিলিটারীর বিরাট ব্যয় নির্ব্বাহে অপচয় হয়েছে এবং অতি সামান্য টাকাই হতভাগ্য দেশবাসীর কল্যাণকল্পে ব্যয়িত হয়েছে। স্বাধীন পশ্চিমবঙ্গের এই বৈষম্যমূলক ব্যয়বরাদ্দের আমূল পরিবর্ত্তন হবে ইহাই জনসাধারণ আশা করেছিল। কিন্তু গত বৎসরের ন্যায় এবৎসরও তাদের সেই আশা ব্যর্থতায় পর্য্যবসিত হয়েছে। পশ্চিমবঙ্গের বাজেটে পুলিশের ব্যয়বরাদ্দের কথাই ধরা যাক। ১৯৪৬-৪৭ সালে পুলিশের খাতে অবিভক্ত বঙ্গে ব্যয় ছিল প্রায় ৬ কোটি টাকা। সেই স্থলে পশ্চিম বঙ্গের ভৌগোলিক আয়তন এক-তৃতীয়াংশ হলেও পুলিশের খাতে সংশোধিত বাজেটে ব্যয় ধরা হয়েছে প্রায় ৫ কোটি টাকা। আর ১৯৪৯-৫০ সালের বাজেটে এই ব্যয় বাড়িয়ে করা হয়েছে ৫ কোটী ৪২ লক্ষ ২৫ হাজার টাকা। এইভাবে আগামী বৎসর পশ্চিমবঙ্গের পুলিশের ব্যয় বাড়িলে অবিভক্ত বঙ্গের পুলিশী ব্যয়ের সমান হয়ে পড়বে, তাতে কোন সন্দেহ নাই। রাজসরকার যদি দেশের জনগণের সহযোগিতার প্রতি বিশ্বাস স্থাপন করতে না পেরে কেবল পুলিশ ও সামরিক শক্তির সাহায্যে দেশ-শাসন ও আত্মরক্ষা করতে চান, তবে এই অবস্থার উদ্ভব হবেই। পুলিশের পেছনেই যদি বোটা আয়ের মোটা অংশ ব্যয় হয়ে যায়, তবে জাতিগঠনমূলক অন্যান্য অত্যাবশ্যকীয় কার্য্যসাধন রাষ্ট্রের পক্ষে কি সম্ভব হবে?

মাননীয় ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়! অবিভক্ত বঙ্গে সাধারণ শাসন পরিচালনায় ব্যয় ছিল ৩ কোটী ৮২ লক্ষ টাকা। ১৯৪৮-৪৯ সালের পশ্চিমবঙ্গের সংশোধিত বাজেটে এই ব্যয়ের পরিমাণ দাঁড়িয়েছিল ২ কোটী ১৯ লক্ষ টাকা। আর ১৯৪৯-৫০ সালের বাজেট বরাদ্দে এই ব্যয় দাঁড়িয়েছে ২ কোটী ৪৭ লক্ষ ৬৫ হাজার টাকা। সরকারী দপ্তরখানার উর্দ্ধতন কর্ম্মচারীদের সংখ্যা এবং তাদের বেতন-ভাতা দিন দিন বেড়েই চলেছে। অথচ নিম্নতন সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের সামান্য বেতনবৃদ্ধির দাবী অরণ্যে রোদনেই পরিণত হয়ে আসছে। জাতির স্বার্থের খাতিরে সরকারী শাসন দপ্তরে এই বৈষম্যমূলক ব্যবধান কমিয়ে শাসন পরিচালনার খাতে ব্যয়বরাদ্দের পরিমাণ হ্রাস করা নিশ্চয়ই অসম্ভব নহে। আগামী বৎসরের বাজেটে শিক্ষার খাতে ব্যয়বরাদ্দ হচ্ছে ৩ কোটী ৩৬ লক্ষ ৫১ হাজার টাকা। যে শিক্ষা বিস্তারের উপর জাতির সর্ব্বাঙ্গীন উন্নতি নির্ভর করছে সেই শিক্ষাকে অবহেলা করা সর্ব্বাংশে মারাত্মক সন্দেহ নাই। চিকিৎসা খাতে চলতি বৎসরের তুলনায় আগামী বৎসরের ব্যয়বরাদ্দ প্রায় এক কোটি টাকা বেশী ধরা হয়েছে। ইহা আনন্দের কথা। যে কৃষির উন্নতি ও উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধির উপর জাতির জীবন-মরণ নির্ভর করছে সেই কৃষি খাতে ৫০ লক্ষ টাকা অতিরিক্ত ব্যয়বরাদ্দ আদৌ প্রয়োজনানুরূপ হয় নি। এই চূড়ান্ত সত্যকে ভুলিলে চলবে না যে এই কৃষি বিভাগকেই চিরদিন উপেক্ষা ক'রে আসা হয়েছে এবং কয়েকটি অফিসারের ব্যয় বহন ছাড়া আর কোন কাজই হয়নি। এই চির-উপেক্ষিত কৃষি খাতে আরও বহু টাকা ব্যয়বরাদ্দ করা উচিত ছিল। সারা দেশের গরীব প্রজাকে ম্যালেরিয়ার করাল কবল থেকে বাঁচাবার জন্য ম্যালেরিয়া নিবারণের মত বিরাট কাজে মাত্র ২ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয়বরাদ্দ নগণ্যে বিস্ময়কর ব'লে মনে হয়। দেশব্যাপী চিরপুঞ্জীভূত মূর্খতা নিরসন করতে হলে বয়স্কদের শিক্ষার জন্য মাত্র ৩ লক্ষ টাকায় কতটুকু কাজ অগ্রসর হবে তা কি ভেবে দেখা উচিত নয়?

মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়! পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার সার্বজনীন প্রাথমিক শিক্ষাকে বাধ্যতামূলক করতে এবং বহু বিরোধিত জমিদারী প্রথার উচ্ছেদ ও মালকতা নিবারণের ব্যবস্থা করতে কেন পশ্চাৎপদ হলেন তার কারণ খুঁজে পাচ্ছি না।

ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়! আর একটি জরুরী বিষয়ের প্রতি অর্থসচিব মহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করে আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করছি।

বাজেটের বিভিন্ন খাতে ব্যয়বরাদ্দের টাকা পশ্চিমবঙ্গের বিভিন্ন জেলার প্রয়োজন অনুপাতে equitable distribution করার চেষ্টা করা হয়নি—ইহা নিতান্তই দুঃখের বিষয়। যে সমস্ত জেলা অতীতে চির-উপেক্ষিত ও চিরবঞ্চিত হয়ে এসেছে এবং দিন দিন বহুবিধ সমস্যা বৃদ্ধির চাপে যাদের দুঃখ-দুর্দশার অন্ত নেই মালদহ জেলা তাদের মধ্যে একটি। বঙ্গ বিভাগের দরুণ এই জেলা পশ্চিমবঙ্গের অবশিষ্ট অংশ থেকে সম্পূর্ণ বিচ্ছিন্ন হয়ে পড়ায় জীবন ধারণের উপযোগী সকল বস্তু ও সকল ব্যবস্থা থেকে এই জেলার লোকেরা বঞ্চিত হয়ে পড়েছে। এই জেলার লোকের চরম শোচনীয় দুরবস্থার কথা মন্ত্রীমহোদয়গণ ভালভাবেই জানা সত্ত্বেও এই জেলাকে বর্তমান বিপদ থেকে উদ্ধারের জন্য বাজেটে কিছুই ব্যয়বরাদ্দ করা হয় নি। আশা করি এই হতভাগ্য জেলার বিষয়ে অর্থসচিব মহোদয় একটু ভেবে দেখবেন যে কিছু করতে পারেন কি না।

Sri HEMANTA KUMAR BASU: মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়! প্রথমেই আমার বক্তব্য যে এই বাজেট এই প্রদেশের ভাষায় লেখা উচিত ছিল। কারণ আমরা স্বাধীন হয়েছি এবং স্বাধীনতার স্পর্শ আমাদের জীবনের সর্বক্ষেত্রে গিয়ে পৌঁছান উচিত ছিল। পৃথিবীর যে কোন দেশে—সে ছোট হউক আর বড় হউক—তার শাসনকার্যের যা কিছু কাজ—এমন কি বাজেট লেখা পর্যন্ত—সবগুলি জাতীয় ভাষায় হয়। কাজেই আজকে স্বাধীনতার স্পর্শ আমাদের দেশের দিক থেকে মন্ত্রীমহোদয়কে যে স্পর্শ করিতে পারেনি ইহা অত্যন্ত দুঃখের বিষয়। এ কথা আমি সেবারেও বলিয়াছিলাম, এবারেও বলিতেছি।

এই বাজেটের সমর্থন বা বিরোধিতা করতে গিয়ে কংগ্রেসের দিক থেকে, দলের পক্ষ থেকে যেভাবে সমালোচনা করা হয়েছে তাতে জনাব আবদুর রহমন সাহেব এবং রফিক সাহেব একটু বিরূপ করেছেন যে বোধ হয় লোককে সন্তুষ্ট করিবার জন্য এই সব সমালোচনা হয়েছে। কিন্তু তাঁদের এ কথা মনে রাখা উচিত যে কংগ্রেসের প্রতিনিধিরা বরাবর দেশের কোটি কোটি দরিদ্র শোষিত জনসাধারণের দাবীর জন্যই দাঁড়িয়েছে, তাদের জন্যই তাঁরা দুঃখ নির্যাতন ভোগ করেছে এবং সে দিক দৃষ্টি রেখেই আজকে এখানে তাঁরা কথা বলেছেন। যদি মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় কিছু ভুল করে থাকেন তবে তার জন্য জনসাধারণের স্বার্থের দিক থেকে, কংগ্রেসের আদর্শের দিক থেকে এবং জয়পুরে যে নীতি পুনরায় বিরোধিত হয়েছে সে দিক থেকে নিশ্চয়ই আমাদের বাজেট সম্বন্ধে সমালোচনা করবার অধিকার খুব বেশী আছে যেমন opposition দলের আছে।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable members sitting on the Ministerial benches are expected to express their views before the leaders in their party meeting where they get sufficient time and opportunity to do so. Here, Sir, they are expected to take their views from their leaders. So I would demand from you a ruling as to whether honourable members are justified in wasting the time of the House by going against the parliamentary convention of a party and indulging in scathing criticism of their own budget and their own leaders.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: I would protest against the words "wasting the time of the House". I suppose every member of the House has a right to speak and if he does speak you may not hear him but you cannot say he is wasting the time of the House because the same argument may be put against another member who does not belong to the party. I confess I have not heard what Mr. Basu was saying but I do suggest that the member should withdraw the words "wasting the time of the House". That is not a correct expression.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: The Hon'ble the Leader of the House has very carefully and cleverly avoided the issue. Every member of the House has certainly a right to speak but there are certain parliamentary party conventions. Having regard to that, Sir, I have asked that being

disciplined members of a party whether they are entitled to spend the time of the House in this manner by offering criticism to their own budget and own leaders which they are going to pass by their own votes.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: I have raised this issue whether any member in this House can say that another member is wasting the time of the House. It is not a clever thing; it is a matter of constitutional procedure. Every member has a right to speak and if any other member does not want to hear, it is for him to get out of the House, but if he says that another member is wasting the time of the House, I protest against it and, Sir, I do ask the member to withdraw the expression.

Sri BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, I have to make a submission on the point of order, but if you have something to say I will sit down and you give me an opportunity later. May I make my submission now? On the same point of order I want to make my submission.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

Sri BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: The honourable member said that there has been a convention here only for the Opposition to speak in course of the general discussion, but that is not true. Both the Opposition and the members of the Government party have participated during the general discussion, and when we had both a Government party and a well organised Opposition party, it was for the two Chief Whips to fix up as to how many members should speak and for what length of time, but we understand, Sir, that in this House the absence of a regular opposition has created great difficulty. The first point that I submit is that there is no point in saying that members of this side of the House cannot participate in the general discussion. As to what they will say is an entirely different matter. I do not think anybody has any control over that.

As to the second point as to whether too many members on this side are speaking or not, that is a matter of arrangement into which you may yourself enquire.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: With regard to "wasting of time" I think it is not right to say in reference to another member's speech and it is parliamentary practice and convention in this House that every member has a right to speak to express his own views whether he is in the Government or in the Opposition. If any member of the Government party desires to speak in his own way—constructive suggestions or otherwise—I have nothing to say on that matter. The responsibilities are his.

Sri HEMANTA KUMAR BASU: মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়! আমি সমালোচনা করবার অধিকারে এই কথা বলছি। সমালোচনা করবার অধিকার প্রত্যেকেরই আছে। এবং গভর্ণমেণ্ট পার্টির সভ্য হয়ে এবিষয়ে আমার কর্ত্তব্য সম্বন্ধে আমি সব সময় সজাগ আছি। কোন মেম্বারকে আমাকে সে বিষয় সজাগ করতে হবে না। মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়, গতবার আমার বাজেট বক্তৃতার শেষে বাজেটের নীতি কি হওয়া উচিত সে বিষয়ে মহাত্মা গান্ধীর একটা উক্তির উল্লেখ করেছিলাম। সে কথাটা তিনি বাংলাদেশে তাঁর শেষ আগমনের সময় বলেছিলেন—"I will give you a talisman. When you are in doubt or the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test: Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to Swaraj for the hungry and spiritually starving millions?"

এবারকার বাজেট পড়িয়া মনে হইল যে মহাত্মা গান্ধীর সেই কথাটির চিহ্নমাত্র এই বাজেটে খুঁজিয়া পাওয়া যায় নাই। মহাত্মাজীর আদর্শ ও চিন্তাধারা হইতে আমরা যে এত দূরে সরিয়া যাইতেছি—তাহা এই বাজেট

আলোচনা করিলেই বুঝা যায়। মহাত্মা গান্ধীর নাম উচ্চারণ করিলে তাঁহার প্রতি সম্মান প্রদর্শন করা হয় না। তাঁহার আদর্শকে কার্য্যে পরিণত করিতে পারিলেই তাঁহার প্রতি প্রকৃত সম্মান প্রদর্শন করা হইবে। নতুবা মহাত্মার পরলোকগমনে তথাকথিত শোকসন্তপ্ত চোরাকারবারীদের মুখে রামধুন গানের মতই শোনাইবে।

মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় বলিয়াছেন—"ধনীদের অবস্থা ক্রমেই খারাপ হইতেছে। কারণ তাহারা ১ লাখে ৪৮,০০০ হাজার টাকা, ২ লাখে ৫৪,০০০ হাজার টাকা এবং ৫ লাখে ৬৪,০০০ হাজার টাকা ও ১০ লাখে ৮৫,০০০ হাজার টাকার বেশী রাখিতে পারে না। মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় যদি হিসাব করিয়া দেখেন তাহা হইলে বুঝিতে পারিবেন যে আমাদের দেশে সাধারণ লোকের গড়পড়তা আয় বৎসরে মাথাপিছু ১০০ টাকার বেশী নয়। সেদেশে মাথাপিছু ১ লাখের আয়তে যদি ৪৮,০০০ হাজার টাকাও থাকে, তাহা হইলেও মাথাপিছু প্রত্যেকের মাসিক ৪,০০০ টাকা থাকিতেছে। তাহা অতিরিক্ত নহে কি? এবং উক্ত টাকা তাহাদের হাতে কোথা হইতে আসিতেছে? তাহার কারণ কি একমাত্র শোষণ নয়? যদি তিনি মহাত্মার আদর্শের প্রতি, কংগ্রেসের আদর্শের প্রতি লক্ষ্য রাখিয়া বাজেট করিতেন তাহা হইলে উক্ত ধনিক সম্প্রদায়ের অপেক্ষাকৃত কিছু বেশী আয়কর দিতে হইতেছে বলিয়া দুঃখ বোধ করিতেন না। সমাজে যাহা কিছু উন্নতি তাহা বৈজ্ঞানিক, সাহিত্যিক, শাসনিক,—ইহাদের প্রচেষ্টা ও গবেষণার ফলে হইয়াছে। ধনিক সম্প্রদায় কেবলমাত্র অর্থের বিনিময়ে তাহাদের গবেষণা এবং আবিষ্কারকে নিজেদের অর্থবৃদ্ধির কাজে নিয়োজিত করিয়াছেন। সেইজন্য একদিকে মুষ্টিমেয় লোক খুব আনন্দ ও ঐশ্বর্য্যের বিপুলতায় বাস করিতেছে। অন্যদিকে অগণিত জনসাধারণ শোষণ, দারিদ্র্য ও বুভুক্ষার ভিতর অর্দ্ধভুক্ত ও অর্দ্ধমৃত অবস্থায় আছে। এই বিরাট ব্যবধানের খাদ পূর্ণ করিয়া সাম্যতা, শান্তি ও সাম্যের সমাজ গড়িয়া তোলাই কংগ্রেসের আদর্শ। সেইজন্য অনেকে কংগ্রেসের পুনরায় উক্ত আদর্শের কথা স্মরণ করাইয়া দেওয়া হইয়াছে। দেশবাসীর হাতে ক্ষমতা আসার পর মহাত্মা এই উক্তি করিয়াছিলেন—"স্বরাজ হইয়াছে, কিন্তু সুরাজ হয় নাই"। এই বাজেট কি আমাদের সেই সুরাজ প্রতিষ্ঠা হইতে দূরে লইয়া যাইতেছে না? নেতাজী সুভাষ চন্দ্র যাঁহার বীর সেনানী আজাদ হিন্দ ফৌজ ভারতে বৃটিশ সাম্রাজ্যবাদের মূলে শেষ আঘাত হানিয়াছে, নেতাজীর সেই স্মরণীয় উক্তি—"All power to the Indian people" অর্থাৎ ভারতের জনগণের সার্বভৌম অধিকারের উপর সমাজের প্রতিষ্ঠা হইবে, তাহার প্রতিষ্ঠা কই? দেশবাসী আশা করিয়াছিল যাহারা বিত্তশালী তাহারা দেশবাসীর হাতে ক্ষমতা আসার পর ত্যাগমন্ত্রে উদ্বুদ্ধ হইয়া দেশের অগণিত জনসাধারণের রাষ্ট্রিক, সামাজিক ও সাংস্কৃতিক উন্নতি সাধনে সচেষ্ট হইবে। কিন্তু দেখা যাইতেছে যে লাভের মাত্রা একটু কম হইবে তাহারা সর্বপ্রকারে দেশের জনসাধারণের উন্নতির পথ রোধ করিতে বদ্ধপরিকর। ধনীরা ধনের জন্য তাহারা নাকি সমাজের উন্নতির কারণ। কিন্তু আজ বাহিরে অনুন্নত শোষণহীন সমাজের সর্বপ্রকার উন্নতির মূল উৎস ধনীরা, না, জনসাধারণ। যদি জয়পুরের বিরোধিত নীতিকে রূপায়িত করিতে হয়, তাহা হইলে জনসাধারণের শক্তি ও বিশ্বাসের উপর নির্ভর করিয়া ধনতন্ত্রের অবসান ঘটাইয়া ভারতবর্ষে শ্রেণীহীন এবং শ্রেণীহীন সমাজের প্রতিষ্ঠা করিতে হইবে। যাঁহারা এই আদর্শকে নিজেদের জীবনে গ্রহণ করিতে পারিবেন না, তাঁহারা কংগ্রেসের আদর্শ হইতে বিচ্যুত হইবেন এবং এই প্রতিষ্ঠানকে বিপথে পরিচালিত করিবেন। আমরা, কংগ্রেসীরা যদি এই বিষয় সময় থাকিতে সতর্ক না হই তবে লক্ষ লক্ষ ত্যাগী ও আত্মদানকারী বঙ্গীদের সাধনাপূত এই মহান প্রতিষ্ঠানকে ধ্বংস হইতে রক্ষা করা সম্ভব হইবে না।

ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমাদের এই দরিদ্র দেশের উচ্চতর কর্মচারীদের বেতন অত্যধিক। আমরা মনে করিয়াছিলাম—ক্ষমতা হস্তান্তরের পর উচ্চতর কর্মচারীরা স্বাধীন ভারতের নূতন জীবনের সংস্পর্শে আসিয়া স্বেচ্ছায় তাঁহাদের বেতনের বেশ মোটা অংশ তাঁহারাই দেশের কোটি কোটি দরিদ্র ভাইদের সর্ববিধ উন্নতির জন্য ত্যাগ করিবে। কিন্তু দেখা গেল বেতন হ্রাস করা অপেক্ষা উহা বৃদ্ধির জন্যই তাঁহারা সচেষ্ট হইয়া উঠিলেন, তাঁহাদের অধস্তন কর্মচারীদের কথা মনে একবারও উদয় হইল না। কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার যে Pay Commission নিয়োগ করিয়াছিলেন, তাঁহারা উর্দ্ধতন কর্মচারীদের ক্ষেত্রে মাসিক ১,৬০০ টাকা ধার্য্য করিয়াছিলেন, সর্বোর্দ্ধ কর্মচারীর ক্ষেত্রে মাসিক ২,০০০ হাজার টাকা অবধি সুপারিস করিয়াছিলেন। কিন্তু বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয় তাঁহাদের সেই সুপারিস পশ্চিম বাংলায় শুধু যে এখনও কার্য্যকরী করিয়া তোলা হয় নাই তাহা নহে, উপরন্তু তাহা সম্পূর্ণ অবজ্ঞা করা হইতেছে। শাসন ক্ষমতা যাঁহাদের হাতে ন্যস্ত, তাঁহারা বর্তমান রাজনৈতিক ও সামাজিক পরিপেক্ষিতে জনসাধারণকে তাঁহাদের পুরাতন চিন্তাধারা ও নীতি সংশোধন করবার আহ্বান জানান। কিন্তু এই আহ্বান জানাইবার পূর্বে—আমরা ও আমাদের যদি নীতি ও কর্মধারার পরিবর্তন না করি—তাহা হইলে সে আহ্বান হাস্যাস্পদ হইয়া দাঁড়ায়। বাজেটে ঘাটতি পূরণের জন্য যে নূতন নূতন বিক্রয়কর ধার্য্য করা হইয়াছে—(যেমন mustard oil, match, firewood, etc.) এসব নিত্য ব্যবহার্য্য জিনিসের উপর। তাহাতে শুধু অগণিত দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের দুর্দশার মাত্রাই কেবল বাড়িবে। এই নীতিকে কিছুতেই প্রশংসা করিতে পারা যায় না। বিক্রয়কর নিয়ন্ত্রণ

বিষয়ে মধ্যপ্রদেশ সরকার যে নীতি সম্প্রতি গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন, তাহা হইতে আমাদের শিক্ষালাভ করা উচিৎ। তাঁহারা দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের নিত্য প্রয়োজনীয় বহু বস্তুকে বিক্রয়করের আওতা হইতে বাদ দিয়া তৎপরিবর্তে নূতন নূতন বিলাস সামগ্রীর উপর বিক্রয়কর ধার্য্য করিয়াছেন। এইরূপ নীতি অনুসৃত হইলে দরিদ্র শ্রেণী বিশেষভাবে উপকৃত হইবে। যদি Central Pay Commission's reportএর সুপারিশকে পশ্চিমবাংলার ক্ষেত্রে গ্রহণ করার ব্যবস্থা করা হইত এবং অন্যান্য বিলাস সামগ্রীর উপর, যেমন Calcutta Race Course,—কর ধার্য্য করা হইত, তাহা হইলে বাজেটে উল্লেখিত ঘাটতি বহুলাংশে কমিয়া যাইবে। তাহা ছাড়া আরও একটা বিষয়ে আমাদের দৃষ্টি দেওয়া উচিৎ। উর্দ্ধতন ও নিম্নতন কর্ম্মচারীদের ভিতর যে বেতনের হারের ব্যবধান রহিয়াছে উর্দ্ধতন কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতন কমাইয়া সে ব্যবধান দূর করিলে যে টাকার সাশ্রয় হয়, তাহাতেও ঘাটতি কিছুটা কমিতে পারে।

এই প্রদেশে আমাদের যিনি গভর্ণর তাঁহার establishment খরচ, touring expenditure, false sense of dignity ও grandeur ইত্যাদি বাবদ যে বহু টাকা খরচ হয়, তাহা কমাইয়া উক্ত অর্থেও বাজেটের ঘাটতি পূরণ করা সম্ভব ছিল। (A VOICE—গভর্ণর জেনারেলের যেমন কমান হয়েছে)

হাঁ, নিশ্চয়। বর্তমান পশ্চিমবাংলা অবিভক্ত বাংলার এক-তৃতীয়াংশ অথচ স্থায়ী কর্মচারীদের দ্বারা সরকারী কাজকর্ম পরিচালনা সম্ভব হইতেছে না এবং বর্তমানে মোটা মোটা মাহিনা দিয়া কর্মচারী নিয়োগ করা হইতেছে ও temporary establishmentএর সৃষ্টি করা হইয়াছে। যেভাবে এই কর্মচারী নিয়োগ করা হইতেছে, তাহাতে জনসাধারণের মনে স্বভাবতঃই সন্দেহ হইতে পারে।

স্বরাষ্ট্র বিভাগে ও অর্থ বিভাগে রাজস্বের অপেক্ষাকৃত বেশী অংশ বণ্টন করা হইয়াছে। অথচ স্বায়ত্তশাসন বিভাগ, বন, মৎস বিভাগ, কৃষি বিভাগ, শিক্ষা বিভাগ প্রভৃতি যে সমস্ত বিভাগের সহিত জনসাধারণের মঙ্গলের প্রশ্ন জড়িত সেই সমস্ত অন্যান্য ডিপার্টমেণ্টের তুলনায় উপেক্ষিত হইয়াছে। কলিকাতা পুলিসের temporary forceএর জন্য ২৫ লক্ষ ৮১ হাজার ৯০০ শত টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। কিন্তু এই temporary forceএর সংখ্যা কত হইবে তাহা দেখান হয় নাই বা তাহারা কি কাজ করিবে তাহাও এখনো ঠিক করা হয় নাই। সরকারী আয়ের $\frac{১}{৭}$ অংশ কেবল পুলিসের জন্য নির্দ্দিষ্ট হইয়াছে, কিন্তু দুঃখের সহিত বলিতে হয় যে পূর্বাপেক্ষা blackmarketing, bribery, corruption, underground activities ও অন্যান্য subversive activities কমে ত নাই বরং বৃদ্ধি পাইতেছে।

Agriculture বিভাগে Poultry Multiplication খাতে একটি বিশেষ অসামঞ্জস্য নজরে পড়ে, যেমন হাঁস, মুরগী প্রভৃতি ক্রয়ের জন্য ১০ হাজার টাকা ধরা হইয়াছে। কিন্তু তার establishment charge খাতে ১ লক্ষ ৪৬ হাজার টাকা বরাদ্দ হইয়াছে। মৎস বিভাগে শুধু contingency charge হিসাবেই ধরা হইয়াছে ৩৮ লক্ষ ৪৮ হাজার টাকা।

খাদ্য ঘাটতি পরিপূরণের জন্য ১৯৪৯-৫০ সালে ৪০ হাজার একর জমি এবং ১৯৫০-৫১ সালে ৫০ হাজার একর জমি আবাদ করার এক পরিকল্পনা U. P. Government গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন। আমাদের বাজেটে আগামী বৎসর কত একর জমিতে গভর্ণমেণ্ট চাষের ব্যবস্থা করিবেন, তাহা বলা হয় নাই।

Prohibition Scheme একেবারেই আমাদের এখানে গ্রহণ করা হয় নাই। বোম্বে ও মাদ্রাজ সরকার তাহা গ্রহণ করিয়া সফলতার দিকে চলিয়াছেন।

Civil Supplies Departmentএ Extra Police Force এবং Enforcement Branch ইহার জন্য মোটা টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। তাহাদের দ্বারা উল্লেখযোগ্য কোন কাজ হয় কি? সিভিল সাপ্লাই ডিপার্টমেণ্টের খরচ উত্তরোত্তর বৃদ্ধি পাইতেছে। এই ডিপার্টমেণ্টের কাজের উপর কেহই সন্তুষ্ট নয়, বর্তমানে প্রায় সমগ্র নিত্য প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষ নিয়ন্ত্রিত, সাধারণ লোক এই সমস্ত জিনিষের জন্য সেখানে গেলে পরে তাহাদের উপর যে রকম ব্যবহার করা হয়, তাহাতে মনে হয় যাঁহারা চ্যার্জ দিতেছেন কোথাও যেন তাহাদের জ্ঞান নাই।

তারপরে আমাদের দেশে T. B. যে রকমভাবে বিস্তৃতি লাভ করিতেছে—সংক্রামক রোগের মত, তাহাতে যদি সরকার সমস্তরত ইহার প্রতিরোধ ব্যবস্থার সচেষ্ট না হন তবে সমাজের ধ্বংস অবশ্যম্ভাবী। প্লেগ, কলেরা হইতে পরে আমরা যেভাবে প্রতিশোধক গ্রহণ করি, আমার মনে হয় T. B. সম্বন্ধেও সেই রকম ব্যবস্থা করা উচিৎ। অন্তত বর্তমান ব্যবস্থানুযায়ী T. B. হাসপাতালে যে সমস্ত রোগী গ্রহণ করা হয় তদনুযায়ী কেবলমাত্র

রোগীদের preliminary stageএ ভর্তি করা হয় কিন্তু advanced case গুলি উপেক্ষিত হয়। এই সমস্ত advanced রোগী যে সমস্ত বীজাণু চারিদিকে ছড়ায় তার জন্য রোগীর সংখ্যা বাড়িয়া যায়। আমি জানি এক একটী পরিবারের পরপর একজন ঐ রোগে আক্রান্ত হইয়া প্রায় সমগ্র পরিবারটি ধ্বংস হইয়া গিয়াছে। এই সব বিষয়েতে বাস্তবিকই কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। তারপরেতে আর একটী কথা হইতেছে—Refugeeদের ব্যাপারে টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। আমাদের গভর্ণমেণ্টও দিবেন, ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্টও দিবেন। কিন্তু এ বিষয়ে একটী বিস্তৃত পরিকল্পনার অভাব পরিলক্ষিত হয়। এই সম্বন্ধে একটী scheme এমনভাবে গ্রহণ করিতে হইবে যে, যত লোক আসিয়াছে সেই সমস্ত লোকের ভারত বিভাগের পূর্ব্বে কি বৃত্তি বা কাজ ছিল, তাহা জানা দরকার ও সেই অনুসারে তাহাদের ঘর বাড়ী ও বাসস্থানের ও কাজের ব্যবস্থা করা প্রয়োজন। আবার পশ্চিমবঙ্গে এমন অনেক লোক আছে যাহাদের ঘরবাড়ী নাই, তাহাদের জন্যও বাস্তুহারাদের ন্যায় একটী scheme গ্রহণ করা উচিৎ।

আমাদের চাষীরা যে সমস্ত বীজ কেনেন, সেই বীজ এবং গাছের উপর ট্যাক্স আছে। এই সমস্ত জিনিষ এক বৎসরের বেশী থাকে না, পচিয়া যায়। কাজেই এবিষয়েও বিক্রয়-কর না থাকাই আমি ভাল বলিয়া মনে করি।

কলিকাতা কর্পোরেসনের যে দায়িত্ব আমাদের গভর্ণমেণ্টের হাতে আসিয়াছে, আমরা মনে করিয়াছিলাম—এক বছরের মধ্যে কর্পোরেসন কমিটী রিপোর্ট দিবেন এবং শীঘ্রই নির্বাচন হইবে এবং পরে আবার যে রকমভাবে কাজ চলিত সেইভাবে চলিবে। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় তাঁহারা তাহা করিতে পারেন নাই। জনসাধারণের দুঃখ এবং দারিদ্র্য এত বাড়িয়াছে যে, তাহারা কোথায় গিয়া তাহাদের অভাব অভিযোগ জানাইবে তাহা তাহারা জানে না। তারপর শিক্ষকদের বেতন সম্বন্ধে আমাদের কিছু করা উচিৎ। বাস্তবিক যাঁহারা জাতিগঠন করিবে, তাঁহাদের যদি অভাব থাকে—সব সময় যদি অভাবের তাড়নায় কষ্টভোগ করিতে হয়—তাহা হইলে তাঁহারা দেশের ও সমাজের উন্নতির জন্য অবিমিশ্র মনোযোগ দিবেন কি করিয়া? যাহাতে তাঁহারা উপযুক্ত বেতন পান ও জীবনধারণের উপযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা তাঁহাদের জন্য করা হয়, তাহার ব্যবস্থা করা উচিৎ।

(The House was then adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহাশয়, আজ ৩ দিন যাবৎ বাজেটের সাধারণ আলোচনা চলেছে এবং বিভিন্ন বক্তা বিভিন্ন দিক থেকে এর আলোচনা করেছেন। আমি এক বনিয়াদী নীতির দৃষ্টিতে এই বাজেটের বিচার করতে চাই এবং সেই দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীর মনোভাব আমি পরিষদের সামনে রাখতে চাই।

আমরা রাজনীতিক স্বাধীনতা পেয়েছি কিন্তু প্রকৃত স্বরাজ অর্থাৎ অর্থনৈতিক, নৈতিক ও সামাজিক স্বাধীনতা, যাকে মহাত্মাগান্ধী রাম-রাজ ও হরিজন-রাজ বলতেন, যাকে মজুর-কৃষক-প্রজা-রাজ বলা হয়েছে—তা আমরা পাইনি, তা অর্জন করতে হবে। এই স্বরাজের স্বপ্নকে মহাত্মাগান্ধী তথা কংগ্রেস এক সমচতুর্ভুজ বলে কল্পনা করেছিলেন। এই সমচতুর্ভুজের ৪টী বাহু, যথা—(১) সাম্প্রদায়িক মৈত্রী, (২) অস্পৃশ্যতা পরিহার, (৩) মাদকতা নিরোধ, (৪) অর্থনৈতিক স্বাবলম্বন—অর্থাৎ খাদি প্রভৃতি কুটীরশিল্পের পুনরুদ্ধার। এই দৃষ্টিতে মাদকতা নিরোধের মূল্য যে কত তা সহজেই অনুমেয়। মাদকতা দূরীভূত না হ'লে কৃষক-মজুর-প্রজার স্বরাজ প্রতিষ্ঠা অসম্ভব। কিন্তু স্বাধীনতা লাভের পর দ্বিতীয় বৎসরের বাজেটে মাদকতা নিবারণ সম্পর্কে কোন উল্লেখই দেখতে পাওয়া যায় না। বরং আমরা কি দেখছি? দেখছি যে মাদক দ্রব্য থেকে লব্ধ আয় ক্রমে ক্রমে বর্দ্ধিত হয়ে এত দূর পর্য্যন্ত দাঁড়িয়েছে যে অবিভক্ত বাংলার শেষ বৎসর অর্থাৎ ১৯৪৬-৪৭ সালে যে আয় ছিল, সেই আয়ের সমান হয়েছে, যদিও পশ্চিম বাংলা অবিভক্ত বাংলার এক-তৃতীয়াংশ মাত্র। অবিভক্ত বাংলার ১৯৪৬-৪৭ সালে মাদক দ্রব্য থেকে আয় ছিল ৬ কোটি ৪১ লক্ষ টাকা, আর ১৯৪৯-৫০ সালে পশ্চিম বাংলার মাদক দ্রব্য থেকে আয় প্রায় ৬ কোটি টাকা। ১৯৪৯-৫০ সালে পশ্চিমবঙ্গের মোট আয় ৩১ কোটি ৮৩ লক্ষ টাকা অর্থাৎ মাদক দ্রব্য থেকে যে আয় তা মোট আয়ের এক-পঞ্চমাংশ। এই থেকে দেখতে পাচ্ছি যে স্বাধীনতা লাভের পর গাঁজা, মদ, আফিং বেশী লোকে কিনে খাচ্ছে। শুধু তা নয়। আমি একজন গ্রামসেবক। গ্রামের মধ্যে কি দেখতে পাই? দেখতে পাই যে স্বাধীনতা লাভের পর থেকে বে-আইনিভাবে অর্থাৎ জবৈধ তাড়ি ও মদ তৈয়ার করে তারা খেয়ে চলেছে; যেন স্বাবলম্বন এই তাড়ি, মদ থেকেই আরম্ভ করা হয়েছে। এটা অত্যন্ত বেদনাদায়ক অবস্থা।

আমরা তাড়ি, মদ, গাঁজা কৃষক-মজুরকে বিক্রয় করে তাদের অধঃপাতের পথ সৃষ্টি করে দেব, আর মুখে কৃষক-মজুর-রাজ প্রতিষ্ঠার কথা বলব--এ পরস্পরবিরোধী--তা হতে পারে না। আজ কংগ্রেসীরা গ্রামের মধ্যে বা অন্য স্থানে গিয়ে মদ, তাড়ি ত্যাগ করার কথা বলতে পারে না। লোকেরা মুখের উপর শুনিয়ে বলে--তোমাদের সরকার মদ, তাড়ি বিক্রি করে মদ, তাড়ি খাওয়ায় উৎসাহ দিচ্ছে, আর তোমরা এসেছ তা বন্ধ করবার জন্য। এ কেমন করে হতে পারে? তাই সরকারকে এই অর্থলোভ ত্যাগ করতে হবে। যেমন করে হোক্ ব্যয় সঙ্কোচ করে এই ঘৃণ্য, কলুষিত এবং (আমাদের কাছে যা মনে হয়) এই পাপদুষ্ট আয়কে বর্জ্জন করতে হবে। মাদক দ্রব্যের দোকানের সামনে দাঁড়িয়ে পিকেটিং করে যারা পুলিশের লাঠি বরণ করেছে, গুলির সামনে দাঁড়িয়েছে, জেল বরণ করেছে, অশেষবিধ দুঃখকষ্ট বরণ করেছে, তাদের স্মৃতি অন্তরে জাগরূক রেখে আমাদের এই মাদকতা বর্জ্জন-পথে অগ্রসর হতে হবে। নচেৎ কৃষক-মজদুর-রাজ প্রতিষ্ঠার চেষ্টা অলীক স্বপ্নে পর্য্যবসিত হবে এবং কংগ্রেসের নীতি, কংগ্রেসের প্রতিশ্রুতি ভঙ্গ করা হবে। আর একটা আয়--সেই আয়ের দিকে আমি সরকারের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করতে চাই। সেটা হচ্ছে Control বা নিয়ন্ত্রণ-ব্যবস্থা। আজকাল জনসাধারণের মধ্যে যে ব্যাপক অসন্তোষ দেখা যাচ্ছে, তার মূল কারণ হচ্ছে এই নিয়ন্ত্রণ-ব্যবস্থা। এই নিয়ন্ত্রণ-ব্যবস্থা কংগ্রেসের সৃষ্ট নয়। নিয়ন্ত্রণ-ব্যবস্থা ইংরাজ শাসকদের দ্বারা সৃষ্ট হয়েছিল যুদ্ধের প্রয়োজনে। কংগ্রেস এই দায়কে উত্তরাধিকারসূত্রে লাভ করেছে। কংগ্রেস একে আঁকড়ে ধরে রাখতে চায় না। এটাকে কি করে নিরাপদে তুলে দেওয়া যায় সেটা আমাদের কাছে একান্ত কাম্য প্রশ্ন। আজকে জনসাধারণের মধ্যে যে ব্যাপক অসন্তোষ দেখা যাচ্ছে--আমি বলেছি, তার মূল কারণ এই নিয়ন্ত্রণ-ব্যবস্থা। Control ব্যবস্থা যতদিন পর্য্যন্ত সম্পূর্ণ ভাবে উঠিয়ে দেওয়া না হয়, যতদিন পর্য্যন্ত স্বাভাবিক জীবনযাত্রার ধারা পুনঃপ্রতিষ্ঠিত না হয়, ততদিন পর্য্যন্ত জনসাধারণের মন থেকে এই বদ্ধমূল অসন্তোষ দূর করা অসম্ভব। দেশের মধ্যে একদল লোক যারা হিংসাত্মক কার্য্যের দ্বারা রাষ্ট্র ধ্বংস করতে চায়, তারা এই অসন্তোষের সুযোগ নিয়ে অগ্রসর হওয়ার সুবিধা পাচ্ছে। তাই তারা এই Control ব্যবস্থা চালু রাখার ভীষণ পক্ষপাতী। প্রায় পৌনে দশ বছরের পরাধীনতায় আমাদের যথেষ্ট নৈতিক অধঃপতন হয়েছে সত্য কিন্তু আমার দৃঢ় ধারণা এই Control ব্যবস্থার ফলে Control সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রত্যেক শ্রেণীর মধ্যে ঢের বেশী নৈতিক অধোগতি হয়েছে। এর কুফল প্রায় সর্ব্বব্যাপক হয়ে পড়েছে। গভর্নমেণ্টও হয়ত এই কুফলের হাত এড়াতে পারেন নি। দেশের বৃহত্তর কল্যাণের জন্য এই Control ব্যবস্থা অবিলম্বে রহিত হওয়া আবশ্যক। তাই মহাত্মা গান্ধী Control উঠিয়ে দেবার জন্য অবিরাম আবেদন জানাতেন। তার কণ্ঠ চিরদিনের মত নীরব হয়ে গেছে। ১৯৪৭ সালের ডিসেম্বর মাসে মহাত্মা গান্ধীর অনুপ্রেরণায় বিনিয়ন্ত্রণ নীতি গ্রহণ করা হয়েছিল এবং ১৯৪৮ সালের ডিসেম্বরের মধ্যে খাদ্যদ্রব্য সমেত সমস্ত জিনিসের Control উঠিয়ে দেবার কথা স্থির হয়েছিল। দেশে বস্ত্র বিনিয়ন্ত্রণ করা হল। কিন্তু বস্ত্র বিনিয়ন্ত্রণের পর বিশৃঙ্খলা ও দুর্নীতি দেখা দেয় এবং সেইজন্য বস্ত্রের Control পুনঃ প্রবর্ত্তন করা হয়েছে। এবং খাদ্যদ্রব্যের Control উঠিয়ে দেবার পরিকল্পনা ত্যাগ করা হয়েছে। চোরাকারবার দমনের জন্য আজকাল মাঝে মাঝে কিছু কিছু চোরাকারবারীকে নিরাপত্তা আইন অনুসারে বহিষ্কার করা হচ্ছে। কিন্তু যে সব বড় বড় ব্যবসায়ী, কারবারী, বস্ত্র বিনিয়ন্ত্রণের পর পাকিস্তানে বে-আইনী বস্ত্র চালান দেওয়ার মূলে ছিল, তাদের যদি সরকার এই প্রদেশ থেকে এইভাবে নিরাপত্তা আইন অনুসারে বহিষ্কারের ব্যবস্থা করতেন, তাহলে বে-আইনী চালান বন্ধ হয়ে যেত ও বস্ত্রের Control পুনঃ-প্রবর্ত্তন করতে হত না।

দামোদর পরিকল্পনা সম্বন্ধে বলতে চাই যে পরিকল্পনার কাজ শেষ হলে এবং তার ফল পাওয়া গেলে তবে খাদ্যশস্যের ঘাটতি পূরণের সম্ভাবনা আছে বলা হচ্ছে। কিন্তু সেচ-পরিকল্পনার শেষ হতে অন্যূন ১০ বৎসর সময় লাগবে। যদি এই হারে ঘাটতি পূরণের অপেক্ষায় থাকতে হয় এবং Control উঠে না যায়, তবে আমার ধারণা যে খাদ্যদ্রব্যের Control কোনদিনই উঠান সম্ভব হবে না। কারণ ১০ বৎসরের মধ্যে লোকসংখ্যা আরও শতকরা ৭।৮ ভাগ বেড়ে যাবে। Control উঠিয়ে দিলেই লোক বাধ্য হয়ে স্বাবলম্বী হবার চেষ্টা করবে এবং ক্রমে ক্রমে সামঞ্জস্য বিধান সম্ভব হবে। নচেৎ নয়। Control উঠানের প্রথম প্রতিক্রিয়ায় কিছু অসুবিধা ও কষ্ট আসতে পারে কিন্তু সরকার তিন মাসের মত আবশ্যকীয় দ্রব্য হাতে রেখে Control তুলে দিলে তার জন্য যদিও বা কিছু প্রতিকূল প্রতিক্রিয়া হয়, তবে তা প্রশমন করা যাবে। উপরন্তু Control উঠে যাবার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে অবৈধ মজুতদারী বা hoarding ও প্রদেশের বাইরে চালান দেওয়া কঠোর হস্তে দমন করতে হবে। লোকে Controlled দামে যা পায়, তাতে কুলায় না--চোরাকারবার থেকে অত্যধিক দামে খরিদ করে। তবেই তার অভাব পূরণ হয়। Control উঠে গেলে যদিও বা সাময়িকভাবে মূল্যবৃদ্ধি হয় তবে তা Control ও চোরাকারবারের দামের মাঝামাঝি একটা কিছু হতে পারে। তার ফলে বর্ত্তমান অবস্থার তুলনায় মুদ্রাস্ফীতি বৃদ্ধির আশঙ্কা কোথায়?

Civil Supply বিভাগের ব্যয় প্রায় ৩ কোটি টাকা। Civil Supply বিভাগে ধান, চাল, গম ইত্যাদি খরিদের যে সরকারী কারবার আছে--যাকে Capital Outlay of Provincial Scheme of State Trading বলে--তার প্রকৃত ঘাটতি বা খরচ বাবদ কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের কাছ থেকে যে ২।।০ কোটি টাকা subsidy পাওয়া যায়, তা বাদ দিলে প্রায় ৩।।০ কোটি--এই নিয়ে মোট লাভায় ৬।।০ কোটি। Control যাওয়ার ফলে যদিও কিছুদিন যাবৎ মূল্যবৃদ্ধি হয়, তা ঐ সব টাকার এক অংশ যে সব অঞ্চলে ration চালু ছিল, সেখানে প্রয়োজন হলে যাপিতাতা স্বরূপ বিতরণ করা যেতে পারে।

তাই সরকারের কাছে আমার বিনীত অবেদন যতশীঘ্র সম্ভব Control উঠিয়ে দিতে তারা মতুবান হোন এবং কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারকে এই সম্পর্কে প্রভাবিত করবার চেষ্টা করুন, তাতে দেশ বাঁচবে, গভর্ণমেণ্ট বাঁচবে এবং কংগ্রেসও রক্ষা পাবে।

Mr. C. C. D. WILKS: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister upon his masterly analysis of our present economic set-up and on the bold and outspoken manner in which he has refuted the stand taken by the Central Government, but simultaneously I cannot but express my disappointment in view of the absence of any provision for the relief of taxation to the already over-burdened tax-payer, who has been, in fact, groaning under its heavy burdens. Indeed the question of attaining the maximum increase in production deserves the highest priority. To repeat his own words, "From this point of view, the wisdom of Government policy and the attitude of capital and labour, and the buoyancy of business conditions are far more important than the avoidance of deficits or the creation of surpluses. What is most disquieting today, therefore, is the absence of buoyancy in business conditions or optimism in business outlook".

The Hon'ble Minister has rightly referred to the setback to business confidence which originated with the depressing Liaquat Ali Budget in 1947. Despite some deviations introduced by the successor Government during the last one year and half, the main pattern of the Liaquat Ali Tax Structures has persisted, with the ultimate result that both hesitancy and diffidence have been displayed by private industry in finalising or working out its rehabilitation or reconstruction plans. The Hon'ble Minister himself has mentioned the sharp fall in new capital formations, which are so essential to a country during its transition from primitive agricultural economy to large-scale industrialisation in order to eradicate the basic problems of hunger, unemployment and under-employment. This fall has been from Rs. 35·61 crores in the first quarter of 1948 to Rs. 33·58 crores in the second down to 20·42 crores in the third quarter. There is no denying the fact that "abnormally high rates of income-tax, and official disfavour of profit through actual or contemplated measures such as the limitation of profits and dividends, profit-sharing and other edicts as well as the conceding of extraordinarily high rates of wages and allowances, costly amenities and long periods of leave to workers as of right by executive fiat or legislative measures, have all acted as a damper on the enthusiasm of the upper-income brackets which have hitherto provided the main source of equity capital in this country. "While the process of redistribution of income should be uninterrupted, its restrictive effect upon capital formation has to be off-set by suitable measures." The Hon'ble Minister himself has frankly admitted that the Industrial Policy announced by the Centre in April last year "did not altogether eliminate the uncertainties from the minds of businessmen as it left open the question of nationalisation of important industries at the end of ten years". "A proper return on capital is as necessary for capital formation as wages are for the supply of efficient services." "Unless the net return on securities is well above that obtainable on gilt-edged securities and savings, and bank deposits which involve no risk of loss of capital, savings will not be canalized into productive channels". I must point out that investors in industries too render a positive and indispensable service

to the community by supplying the necessary risk capital for industri development. My honourable friend, himself, has pleaded that they shoul not be deprived of their due share of the reward.

By warning investors that "the age of large profits has definitely gon and businessmen should make up their minds to share in a more equitabl distribution of wealth with the common run of men", my honourable frien has opined that they should foster a new outlook for a happy readjustmen between different interests. But I am afraid that here my honourabl friend has contradicted his earlier observations, and suffered a tota sommersault only perhaps to appease a section amongst the idealists. A an ace-businessman of India, my honourable friend is surely well aware o the fact that the nett profits earned of late by private industry after essentia deductions on account of Central and Provincial taxation, depreciations replacements, etc., have hardly been in keeping with its pre-war earnings If labour can demand a much higher wage and other costly reliefs owin to a rise in the cost of the living index, in fairness to much-maligne capital, which will for a long time as yet to come remain as an indispensabl agent in production, it should also be allowed a corresponding rise in it rate of real return.

It is indeed heartening to hear that the Government also seem to b veering round to the view that private enterprise should be given th encouragement it needs if the present stalemate is to be ended. If th Government really embarks upon such a policy, much-maligned industr and the scared investors will surely not lag behind in the consolidation o the freedom of the common man on the economic plane.

While the Government have embarked upon one scheme after another all the blueprints seem to have been prepared and worked out in a sort o statistical vacuum. It is indeed too late in the day to say that the authoritie are not in possession of accurate and relevant data The man in the stree has spent a long time in anxious suspense and has been duped by fon expectations of the emergence of Ram Raj on the advent of freedom, though he has not seen a glimpse of that order as yet. It appears rather queer that a popular Government should continually indulge in such costly experiments which are retarding the country's smooth transition to freedom and her ultimate reconstruction. I would rather repeat my honourabl friend's own warning that "mere appointment of Committees, even consisting of representatives of all the interests, will avail but little unless backed by all relevant factual and relevant statistical data".

The Government in their policy of appeasing the intransigent demands of organised labour, appear to have overlooked the resultant case of agricultural workers. These agricultural workers are employed only in seasonal operations, as a result whereof they have flocked to urban areas during the off season, taken up some employment in organised industries during that period and continued in such employment even during the sowing and harvesting season because of the comparatively higher wages and superior amenities available to the labourers of the former category. The consequence of this exodus has been the most stupendous not only for the municipal authorities and the provincial administration but also for the Central authorities, as it has further worsened the already deteriorating food situation and frustrated the long and short-term Grow More Food plans. Indeed, the urban areas have been a heavy liability, not only to the urban authorities, but also to the Central Government.

I would strongly advise, that, instead of launching a large number of schemes which have hardly got the prospects of being fulfilled even partially during the next financial year, my honourable friend should follow his own maxims, lest by attempting to do more than we can manage, we shall only waste energy, retard progress, and step on the spiral of inflation. A sense of priority is essential if our progress is to be orderly and steady. Therefore, in formulating his budget, he should offer crippled trade and industry the

much-needed taxation relief which alone would have gone a very long way in reviving business confidence and activising the hapless investor to make the best use of his money, thereby, indirectly, stepping up the country's rapid march to abundance and prosperity.

It is essential that we make up our minds before starting any work, and that our schemes and plans are thoroughly scrutinised, having regard not only to their financial results, but also to their correct order of priority, and with a view to avoid wasteful employment of men and materials. Though my honourable friend has sounded a note of caution, in saying that, "a leap in the dark should be avoided as far as possible. Any lop-sided or half-hearted measure, it implemented with unthinking zeal, may cause waste which we can hardly afford in the existing conditions of things"; he himself has outlined some plans in the budget which seem to suffer from the very same drawbacks that he has cautioned us against. I would particularly like to refer in this connection to a large number of building projects, irrigation schemes and the state transport service. It is admitted at the moment that there is a hopeless shortage of building materials, particularly cement, bricks, irons, and steel, etc., and he will agree there is little likelihood of any improvement in their supply position in the near future. Further, there is no gainsaying the fact that the authorities are as well experiencing an acute shortage of qualified, apart from competent, technical personnel to supervise the successful working out of these projects. My honourable friend has circulated a statement for the information of the honourable members, showing the progress of development schemes outside the development programme. In spite of the enactment of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, even now the organisation is still in a nebulous stage, yet the Hon'ble Minister has earmarked Rs. 91 lakhs and Rs. 340 lakhs towards the Provincial Government's share of the cost of this project during the two years 1948-49 and 1949-50. I am sure that they will not be able to spend even a part of this amount during the next year if the tightness in the supply position of building materials, equipment, accessories and machinery continues. Another bulk allocation of Rs. 49 lakhs and Rs. 75 lakhs has been made for the Mor Reservoir Project during the two financial years. Although an amount of Rs. 86 lakhs was provided for in the original budget, the progress of this project has been very slow. I cannot check the temptation of referring to the relevant remarks in his statement in this connection: "Temporary office, staff quarters, barracks, outhouses, godowns, petrol tanks, etc., have been constructed; the construction of the power house at the site of the barrage is in progress, while the building for the pump house is nearing completion. The materials collected so far are stated to comprise of 370,500 cubic feet stone boulders, 270,000 cubic feet stones for crushing, 270,000 cubic feet ballasts and chips, 129,400 cubic feet of shingles, 82,000 cubic feet of machine-crushed ballasts, 1,727 tons of steel pipes, 780 tons of steel rods, 4,218 tons of cement and 2,445 tons of coal have been procured. Almost all machinery required for completing certain blocks have been obtained and a further sum of Rs. 49 lakhs will be spent by the end of the financial year."

I must also make a pointed reference to the question of the preparation of a Master Plan for the drainage of Calcutta and the surrounding areas. Incidentally, this Master Plan had also engaged the attention of the Government of undivided Bengal for a pretty long time, and for which lump sum allocations were made by them regularly in their annual budgets. It seems questionable that my honourable friend has also made an allocation of Rs. 5,15,000 and Rs. 4,71,000 for the self-same Master Plan during the two years. The progress made so far is indeed disappointing when one reads from the report that "Staff appointment is almost complete, tools and plants have been partly purchased. Preliminary investigation including the collection of hydrological data for the formulation of the Master Plan is in progress." I indeed wonder if this Master Plan will ever be completed and sincerely trust that its fructification will be seen before the next Deluge.

Then I would refer to yet another Master Plan, that of the development of the Kanchrapara area and the re-housing of bustee-dwellers. A lump sum of about Rs. 1,68,00,000 has been made for the former purpose, but I am definite that the authorities will not be able to spend a fraction of the amount in the coming year. Therefore, to augment the expenditure in a more thorough manner, I would suggest that Government extend necessary facilities to private individuals, Co-operative Societies and Joint Stock Companies to carry on the good work of expenditure. Land may be acquired by the Government and made over to these parties, either against cash payment or by payment of suitable instalments and easy supply of building materials should be arranged for them. Such a step will help the authorities in the immobilisation of surplus purchasing power in the hands of the community for a productive purpose and indirectly help in their anti-inflationary drive. If the authorities accept my suggestion there will surely be less demand on revenue and some relief to the over-burdened tax-payer in the shape of over a crore of rupees and incidentally it could help Government to fructify their postponed project of co-operative housing for the poor middle class people. Here again may I ask the Hon'ble Minister as to why the authorities have selected the Entally and Gariahat areas for the construction of several blocks of buildings for the accommodation of poor and middle class people. It should be and I presume it is the deliberate intention of the authorities to decentralise Calcutta and develop its surrounding areas. But by no stretch of imagination can one be led to feel that poor and middle class bustee-dwellers will have the means to live in the blocks designed for them in the more aristocratic areas unless the authorities allow some sort of a direct or indirect subvention to them. Instead of selecting these particular areas the authorities could have better spent public money in the acquisition of for the self-same price ten times the area of land if they had selected a suburban zone for the purpose. Such a course would have ensured not only accommodation for a larger number of families at cheap rentals but would have realised a regular annual windfall for the Exchequer. I trust this has not been catalogued as another Master Plan.

Again I would refer to the capital outlay incurred by the Government in connection with the State Transport Scheme. A provision has been made in the Revised estimates for Rs. 52 lakhs and Rs. 76 lakhs for the next year's budget. It is proposed to run 400 State buses in Calcutta and its suburbs with the object to relieve the congestion in public conveyance. About 70 buses have already been put on the road and are plying on three principal routes in the city but apparently without any alleviation of the traffic congestion. The deployment of the buses seems as if it has not been made on a scientific basis as a result whereby buses appear to ply practically empty during peak hours of traffic. Mention may be made in passing to the careful selection of routes. Routes No. 32A and 32B ply from Dakshineswar to Esplanade via Dalhousie Square from early morning to late at night always with an overload of passengers but only from and as far to Shambazar. The extension of these bus routes to Dakshineswar seems therefore to be superfluous. I would suggest to the authorities that they make Shambazar a terminus of this route, as with a fleet of 30 buses they can run a two-minute service in either direction, which will result not only in a lower consumption of petrol but will ensure a much higher revenue.

Route No. 3B appears to be all right as regards the termini but the itinerary seems wrong as most buses run empty after crossing Esplanade Junction. Instead of proceeding along their prescribed routes these buses could be diverted via Mission Row, Old Court House Street, Esplanade Crossing and Chowringhee terminating at the Alipore Judges Court via Anderson House, Alipore. Persons proceeding to Chetla may change bus at the Hazra Road crossing and travel by Route No. 33.

With the present contingent of buses and tramcars the congestion in traffic can be relieved considerably but only if the deploying authorities

approach the problem from a more scientific angle. Dalhousie Square and the Esplanade are both the hubs of the distribution of traffic, and all traffic therefore should disburse from these points. Feeder services to the outskirts of the city could be arranged from Shambazar, Sealdah, Kalighat and Howrah Stations.

In my humble opinion, the Government is not properly equipped for embarking upon this scheme. Efficiency of Government managed institutions has been very low, and the officials both high and low still lack the sense of responsibility and moral urge both of which account *undoubtedly for the success of privately* managed organisations. The scheme seems to be a most ambitious one, and my honourable friend has earmarked about 85 lakhs of rupees for the purchase of land, the construction of a central workshop and garages, the installation of plant *and machinery, etc.* May I ask my honourable friend, as to why he has not sought other ways of meeting this problem? Instead of purchasing land in a Central area, can he not requisition a plot for a period of five or ten years? Can he not utilise private garages for the accommodation of the cars? Such a course will not entail a heavy expenditure of the taxpayers money and particularly at this time

I still feel that instead of starting the scheme the authorities could have offered suitable facilities to existing experienced private enterprises as well as refugees and ex-servicemen to purchase or hire buses and run them on their account repaying their debts to the Government in suitable instalments. Here the anticipated revenue, after the investment of about a crore of rupees is estimated at only 6 lakhs without providing for depreciation and insurance. Hardly a lucrative return for the improvement of taxpayers hardearned money.

In painting a rosy picture for the next year the authorities expect a windfall in the current year by receipts against the high rates of the betting tax, totalisator tax and electricity duty and out of the imposition of the sales tax on about 20 further items such as mustard oil, sugar, coal, newspapers, etc. But I fear they are counting their chickens before they are hatched. They have overlooked the fact that the heavy incidence of taxation has already resulted in a drying up of investment money and purchasing power, as in spite of inflationary trends, deflationary forces are gaining a high momentum.

The expected yield from the imposition of the high rate of the betting tax and the totalisator tax is a delusion and if I may be forgiven for using a slang phrase I shall eat my hat if my contention is not correct. This imposition will only have the effect to penalise the honest member of society, and encourage the unsocial activities of the illegal bookmaker and thereby deprive the public exchequer of its just dues. This matter may be thoroughly investigated before it is finalised.

In bringing mustard oil, etc., under the sales tax axe, I fear the Hon'ble Minister has done a great harm to the Government. He has remarked at great length of the growth of "isms" in the country, well this injudicious and iniquitous imposition is just playing into the hands of these "isms". The position of China and the unhappy state of our neighbour Burma are both making daily headline news in the press. I would advise the imposition instead of "caution" to my honourable friend.

As a member of this House I feel I have the right to tell him in a forthright manner that, if I were in his place, I would rather deprive the Public Exchequer of the resultant expected gains by the imposition of the sales tax on these further items, particularly those of essential necessity to the poor, than throw the country into the machinations of unsocial elements. I feel it is my bounden duty to raise my voice in caution for the better governance of my country.

Janab MOLLA MOHAMMAD ABDUL HALIM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the budget placed before the House has been subjected to most scathing criticism from all quarters, not excluding the members on the treasury benches. This is a very welcome sign. I congratulate them for their courage to call a spade a spade. Sir, I do not want to make a speech, but only to chime in with the chorus of criticism that the budget has evoked. Rs. 32 crores is not a small amount. Properly utilised, this could go a long way towards the economic uplift of the country. But the way it has been drawn up is most disappointing. The objective in view seems to have been not the good of the country but the good of a coterie.

Sir, ours is a deficit country. The Government is spending crores of rupees every year to import foodgrains from outside. Grow or perish is our watchword. We are squandering a lot of money after grow more food drive. May I know, Sir, what the Government is doing to protect the crops of the poor peasants from the ravages of a section of the people known as *gopas* or *goalas*. The poor Muslim peasants of Nadia are shedding tears of blood to see their crops covering hundreds of bighas damaged, destroyed or looted, and that before their very eyes. They dare not resist, they dare not oppose, for fear that it might involve them in further troubles. They run to the police, they run to the Magistrate and they run to the Congress, but all in vain. No help or remedy was forthcoming from any quarter. Sir, can you conceive of a greater condemnation of the Government than those acts of lawlessness expose them to. It is said that those acts are not such as the police could take notice of. Sir, can anybody with a grain of common sense hold for a moment that acts of loot and plunder are not cognizable by the police? An offence under the Cattle Trespass Act is not, of course, cognizable, but does it take long to amend the Act to meet the exigency? In my opinion to prevent these acts of lawlessness, action, if necessary, should be taken under the Security Act. It is a menace that threatens public peace and tranquillity and creates panic and a sense of insecurity in the minds of the minority community, and what is more deplorable, detracts from the prestige of the Government and lowers it in the estimation of the world.

Sir, before I sit down I shall be failing in my duty if I do not pay a word of tribute to Sri Bijoy Lal Chatterji and his valiant wife. In a lonely village in Nadia he and his valiant wife are trying just to give a concrete shape and form to what the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, preached and died for, and giving their life blood for it. But what has been the result of their noble endeavour? Utter failure is now facing them.

Sir, the true followers of Mahatma Gandhi in their anxiety to relieve the distress of the suffering humanity have been running from post to pillar for a remedy. The petitions they have made to the Government have piled up, but no remedy has been forthcoming, and what is worse their life has been made miserable and they are being sought to be hounded out of the area. Bijoy Babu is a veteran Congress man. His life is a tale of sufferings in the cause of the country. His failure sets us to think furiously as to what things are coming to, and we sink down in utter despair.

Sri SATISH CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker, Finance Minister of our Congress Government, naturally has the proud distinction of being able to present not only budget for the first year but also the budget estimates for the next year of our national freedom and he claims that he is laying the foundation of happiness and prosperity in the Province. If Sri Sarker's budget really lays the foundation of happiness and prosperity no one would be more glad than ourselves. But in considering the budget, we find that our Finance Minister has excelled in the compilation of the statistics and in presentation thereof, the viewpoints of all the capitalists in India. I don't say that the review that he has given has excelled the pictorial advertisement of Sri Sampat Aiyangar inserted by the capitalists to have

sympathy of the Government and to hoodwink the masses. The Finance Minister's viewpoint probably is that in the present state of affairs the idealism, so long preached by the Congress, should not be followed, and that for some time the country has to support the capitalists so that they may not absolutely destroy, by their passive non-co-operation, the entire financial structure of the country. The speech is certainly an excellent practical exposition as far as that goes. But it must be remembered that he is the Finance Minister of the most progressive Congress-minded people of Bengal and for the Finance Minister to throw all the ideals of socialism, so long preached by the Congress, to the winds is more than what other poor Congress men and the common men would relish. He has certainly talked of "progressive socialism" but like the progressive self-government of the British regime it possibly has its own sinister meaning. We have still to learn that absolute capitalism and progressive socialism could go parallel like two wheels of a bullock cart.

Regarding Krishak Majdur Raj our Finance Minister says that "our ultimate objective should be to hasten the advent of Krishak-Proja-Majdoor Raj" and that "the ultimate political power rests with the Krishak-Proja-Majdoor". May not the Krishak Majdoor ask what benefit is the present budget going to confer on them to lessen their miseries, and when there is no indication that they will get rice cheaper or cloth cheaper nor is there even an indication that they will be spared a little about the prices they have to pay for daily necessities such as mustard oil, firewood or domestic coal and other essential articles. The burden of taxes that has already been imposed, along with the taxation which the Finance Minister wants to impose, is not only crushing on the Krishak Majdoor but is going to eat up the very soul and sap of these poor people. His diagnosis is that in the past no party could do much for them because they had no clear and definite workable plan by which improvement could be effected. But the present budget also has given no clear indication as to how the lot of Krishak Majdoor is going to be improved. His main grounds for not having any indication in his budget for the improvement of the lot of the Krishak Majdoor is that their improvement "involves irrigation, proper manuring of land, land reclamation, co-operative farming and a variety of other efforts". "All these require resources not only in men, material and money but also in "know-how" of things and must inevitably be a slow and arduous process." It is useless to say that we have no men and material to do works and at the same time provide huge amounts for expenditure on these items.

As has been pointed out the entire budget is the capitalists' budget meant for the good of the capitalists with such artistic slogans to lull the common men as is necessary for the safe exploitation by the capitalists of the masses. But we, as the members of the Congress party, have to think of a budget which irrespective of the present condition must think in terms of Mahatma Gandhi's ideal as accepted by the Congress, and the budget should have been more for the benefit of the Krishak Praja than the black marketeers and the people who are earning more than a lakh a year and not paying their income-tax.

In West Bengal the most pressing problems are (1) high price of foodstuff, (2) high price of cloth, (3) problem of refugees and I personally think (4) problem of primary education.

Our Finance Minister this year has very kindly given us various statements showing the way wherefrom the money comes and where the money goes. He has given us very helpful figures of various departments regarding gross cost, net cost and the percentage of collection charges. But as far as the Civil Supplies Department is concerned, only gross figures of the purchase and realisation have been given. No figure has been given to show how much foodstuff has been lost in storage, in transit and how much has not been accounted for, what is the average price at which foodstuff is procured and the average price they have been sold during the year. How

the loss of more than 1 crore of rupees has been accounted for? The only figure that is available is the figure where the Government has paid for the food supplied at a price lower than its purchase price. As is well-known the whole quantity of paddy and rice of Bengal, before the Civil Supplies Department came into existence, was stored by the *aratdars* and supplied by the *mudis* at different places of this country. The Civil Supplies Department has been procuring paddy at an average rate of Rs. 7 per maund The cost of husking is 8 annas per maund, cost of gunny bag which holds 2½ maunds is about Rs. 30 per 100 maunds. The transport charges cannot exceed 4 annas per maund. It is well-known that 150 maunds of paddy yield at least 100 maunds of rice and calculated on this basis and taking incidental charges the cost per maund of rice should not exceed Rs. 12 per maund. The only item that has not been taken into consideration is the cost of storage and distribution. The rice that is sold to consumers by the Civil Supplies Department is for B grade annas seven, for A grade annas ten and six pies per seer; that is, on an average of nine annas per seer or Rs. 22-8 per maund. Even if we take it for granted that most of the rice purchased by consumers is B grade the price comes up to Rs. 17-8 per maund. I fail to understand why the Civil Supplies Department should lose when there is a margin of Rs. 5-8 per maund, if we take B grade and margin of Rs. 10-8 if we take an average of A and B grades. It positively proves that the storage and distribution is so ill-managed that there has been a huge drain of the tax-payers' money to the tune of at least 1 crore of rupees. This one fact alone is sufficient proof that the department should be abolished and the entire procurement and distribution should be left with the *aratdars* and grocers Government is only to fix the maximum price and to see that it is rigidly adhered to and to safeguard the outlets in the borders.

Next question is cloth. It has been stated by the President of the Cloth Dealers' Association that the whole muddle is due to gross inefficiency and mismanagement and the handling of permits. Permits are given to all and sundry and most of them have not the capacity to lift the goods from the various mills. They only arrange with some financiers who are prepared to help them to lift the goods and split up the profits. The result has been that heavy accumulation of stock has taken place in most of the mills whereas consumers have to stand hours together in long queues to purchase a pair of cloth at exorbitant high price.

Then the problem of refugees. Our Finance Minister has not been able to give us any concrete plan regarding refugees He has in his statement certainly dealt with the refugee problem and has spoken very nice words to them. No concrete proposal, plan or formula has been given excepting some loans and doles which have been sanctioned to these unfortunate people. The Finance Minister very well knows that the Government has almost a lakh of acres of land and a list he can easily have from the Collectorate of Calcutta, Alipore, and other districts. Could he not formulate a scheme like the Industrial Finance Corporation, which may be called "Refugee Rehabilitation Corporation", and could not the Government give to these refugees lands belonging to the Government against Mortgage Debenture Bonds carrying a small interest of, say, 2 per cent. per annum. If a corporation of this type could be sanctioned the Government might easily have purchased 51 per cent. of its shares and help each refugee with a capital sum, say, Rs. 1,500 with which a refugee can easily build a two-roomed tenement with corrugated sheet roofs or tiled roofs. The refugee could have repaid this loan in 15 or 20 years.

Then comes the question which I have given priority I, that is, the question of primary education. This year a provision has been made of Rs. 40,00,000——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Sri ANANDILAL PODDAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel disheartened to speak at this stage, because I find that even the Finance Minister is absent. Ordinary courtesy demands and the convention of this House also demands that at least the Hon'ble the Finance Minister should be present to hear the members. If simply notes are to be forwarded to him, we can send our speeches as well and they may be taken as read and he may think over them. But in order to obey your command, Sir, I shall say a few words.

Sir, I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the manner in which he has presented the Budget estimate for the year 1949-50. He has ably dealt with the economic trend of the country as a whole with the falling of production on one hand and inflation on the other, the conflict between capital and labour, resulting in less production and more inflation. I wish I could say the same thing about the matter contained in the budget.

Bengal has been a problem province for long. As an advance base in the last world war, its people suffered most and their sufferings culminated in the great famine of 1943 which completely shattered its rural economy. Before the province could recover from the impact of war and famine, came the communal riots followed by partition of the province, Radcliffe Award and mass migration of people from East Bengal to West Bengal. No other province had to sacrifice so much for the attainment of Independence and no other province has suffered so much as Bengal has, before Independence as well as after.

But the attitude of the present Government of India towards the legitimate claims of this Government to a just allocation of income-tax and jute duty is a puzzle to me. Undivided Bengal used to get 20 per cent. of the provincial pool of income-tax under the Niemeyar Award. But almost the whole of the income-tax (viz., 79/80 portion) used to be collected from Calcutta and other industrial areas in West Bengal while only a small fraction (1/80 portion) used to be collected from East Bengal. The Government of India has, most arbitrarily and unjustly, reduced the share of Bengal from 20 per cent. to 12 per cent. which means that West Bengal will get only 3½ crores per year and 2½ crores which is her just and fair due will go to other provinces as a windfall. This is hardly fair to our province. Similarly, the decision of the Government of India to reduce the jute duty allocable to the Provinces from 62½ per cent. under the Niemeyar award to 20 per cent. is equally arbitrary and unfair and particularly so to West Bengal. I am afraid, the case of West Bengal has not been fought out as it should be. I cannot compliment the Hon'ble Finance Minister on the defeatist mentality exhibited by him when he says "that on questions like these, the Government of West Bengal has a feeling that its case does not receive adequate attention in Delhi". Our case is just and strong and it should not be allowed to go by default but it should be fought out in every possible way till we succeed.

I regret I have not been able to find out any attempt on the part of the Hon'ble Finance Minister to reduce the cost of administration, which is admittedly top heavy. If there is any deficit, it must be met by fresh taxation. If the gap between the receipts and disbursements cannot be bridged, the poor man's mustard oil, match box, coke, coal and fuel and even coarse cloth must pay sales tax. This is an attitude which should not be countenanced under the Congress régime. The partition of the Province has reduced the area to be administered by two-thirds. West Bengal is one-third in size of undivided Bengal—thanks to the arbitrary arbitration of Radcliffe. But has there been any proportionate reduction in the strength of officers and men of the various departments? No. There has been no reduction worth mentioning. On the other hand, there has been increase in the staff in many departments. The Special Officer who is responsible for the Interim Report of the enquiry into staff requirements has advanced

strange arguments in support of increasing the staff, viz., the Departments and Directorates cannot be reduced in number and that provision has to be made for strengthening the administration of border districts, deputation to Government of India in connection with affairs of Central Government, etc., etc. I regret my inability to follow the argument. We have yet to know the effect of strengthening the administration of border districts and as regards deputations to New Delhi, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has in his speech revealed the fate of such deputations and representations. The arguments advanced, however, prove one thing, viz., the brown bureaucrats are not a whit behindhand to white bureaucrats in ingenuity.

The disparity of salary between highest paid officer and lowest paid employee also calls for scrutiny. In England and other advanced countries, the highest paid officers receive 20/25 times of lowest paid employees, but here, in a poor country like ours, the highest paid officers draw Rs. 3,000 per month when the lowest paid employees draw Rs. 30, the ratio being 100:1.

I would now draw the attention of the House to a few figures which will tell their own tale:—

	Actual receipts in undivided Bengal 1945-46.	Budget Estimate 1949-50.
	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.
Customs	136	123
Land Revenue ..	387	179
Stamps	403	220

From the above figures, it will appear that there has been a considerable reduction in each of the principal items of revenue since 1945-46.

Coming to the expenditure side, we find the actuals under several items in Civil Administration in 1945-46 and provision in 1949-50 are as follows:—

	Actuals in undivided Bengal in 1945-46.	Budget Estimate 1949-50
	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.
Police	358	462
Medical	115	355
Agriculture	207	261

I am not against the increased provision for expenditure under Medical, Public Health or Agriculture or Education or any other nation-building department, but my point is that if your revenue dwindles, you must make corresponding reduction in your expenditure in unproductive items and in staff. Our regret is that no attempt has been made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in this direction. This is burning candle at both ends and day and night and at this rate, we shall be on the verge of total bankruptcy very soon.

In this connection, I would draw the attention of the House to the provision of 5·97 crores under the provision of Excise as against 5·81 crores in the revised budget. I wonder if the Hon'ble Finance Minister has considered the fact that the Congress has accepted prohibition on principle and that being so, steps should be taken to restrict the consumption of liquor and other drugs and the Provincial Government must be prepared to budget for less and less receipts from this head of revenue as years go on. Bombay,

Madras, Central Provinces and other Provinces are going ahead with legislation for enforcing gradual but progressive prohibition and I do not see why West Bengal alone should lag behind and budget for increased revenue from excise. A time will come—I hope soon—when there will be no revenue under this head. On the other hand, you will have to spend money to enforce prohibition. It is therefore incumbent on the Government to find out an alternative source of revenue which is likely to yield 6 crores of rupees or to effect reduction in the cost of administration to that extent.

I would like to say a few words about the problem of problems facing the Government—I mean the refugee problem—on the successful solution of which will depend the stability of the Government as also peace and tranquillity in the country. I cannot agree with the Hon'ble Finance Minister that a happy solution of the problem can come only from the co-ordinated efforts of the public, the refugee and the Government. The partition of Bengal was decided upon by the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal and the responsibility for relief to and rehabilitation of this uprooted mass of humanity rests on the two governments and the two governments alone.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has provided for an expenditure of 2 crores and 21 lakhs during the current year and 4 crores and 28 lakhs to be drawn from the Central Government during the next year for refugees. On paper, 6½ crores appear to be a goodly figure. But where is the plan—where is the scheme for the profitable use of this amount? Is there any scheme or plan at all? If not, why not? If so, why has it not been made public? As the Central Government will pay the money, has the scheme, if any, been approved by the Government of India? These are questions which, I submit, call for reply from the Hon'ble Finance Minister as well as the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Relief and Rehabilitation.

Now, Sir, look at Bombay. Bombay is not a partitioned province like West Bengal but being adjacent to Sind, it has its refugee problem as well though it is not as acute as in Bengal. But the Bombay Government has drawn up a scheme to build a new township for one lakh of refugees at Kalyan, 36 miles from Bombay, at an estimated cost of 8½ crores. This township with 20,000 tenements will be one of the largest to be built for refugees in India and the scheme has already been approved by the Government of India. This scheme as well as other schemes were discussed at a recent conference in Bombay between the representatives of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of India and the Bombay Government. It is further understood that the Government of India have informed the Bombay Government that the Centre would be prepared to advance loans for the execution of these schemes.

Bombay though not a partitioned province is going ahead. But what has West Bengal done? The problem is no doubt a colossal one and must be tackled properly and scientifically. It would not admit of tinkering or half-hearted measures.

In this connection, Sir, I would, with your leave, ask certain questions in the hope that the Hon'ble Minister concerned will let the House have his replies in proper time.

My first question is, whether up-to-date statistics of the refugees already in West Bengal have been prepared by Government, classified under the following or similar heads:—

(1) Absolutely destitute.

(2) Agriculturists.

(3) Weavers.

(4) Artisans.

(5) Middle class people.

(6) Well-to-do people.

The House will, I am sure, agree that such statistics are absolutely necessary before any comprehensive scheme can be drawn up.

Secondly, has the Government prepared a statement of expenditure already incurred in this behalf? If so, it should be placed before the House.

Thirdly, is it a fact that about 23,000 acres of uncultivated waste lands are available in West Bengal? If so, how much of this land belongs to Government and how much to private owners?

I would like to know what steps have been taken by Government to acquire this land. I understand from a very reliable source that if this land could be acquired and necessary arrangements made, ten lakhs of refugees could be settled on it.

Next to the refugee problem comes the food problem. Divided Bengal can hardly feed its teeming millions, nor has it the means to import, for long, foodstuffs at high rate from neighbouring provinces and from abroad. Hence, supreme effort must be made to step up production at least two-fold and within a very short period. This can only be done by utilising every inch of land and by employing modern methods of cultivation and manuring. In 1948-49, a sum of Rs. 1,65,43,000 was provided in the budget and in 1949-50 there is the increased provision of Rs. 2,02,80,000 under the three sub-heads of "Grow More Food", viz., Agriculture, Fisheries and Irrigation. But what is the result? Is it commensurate with the expenditure incurred? We all know the yield per bigha of rice—the staple food of Bengal—is very low. Have we been able to double the yield by modern methods of farming?

Sir, mere appointment of officers and experts to lucrative jobs will not do. In view of the supreme importance of the refugee problem as well as of the food problem of this province, I would suggest that Government should publish quartely reports to the Press through the Publicity Department, as to the progress made in each department for the information as well as education of the public. That, I submit, is the proper function of the Government Publicity Department.

Before I conclude, I would request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to balance the budget by reduction of expenditure through retrenchment of superfluous staff rather than resort to fresh taxation. West Bengal is over-taxed province and its poor and middle class people are already very hard hit for the excessive price of foodstuffs, cloth and other daily necessaries. The incidence of sales tax is highest in Bengal and the poor man's daily requirements should not be brought within its ambit. There is a limit to the suffering and endurance of the public and the proposed fresh taxation might prove the last straw on the camel's back. If, however, resort must be had to a fresh levy, then in that case the Hon'ble Finance Minister should try some new avenues, where people can really afford to pay.

Sri KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA : মাননীয় ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়, বাংলাদেশে আমরা ঘাটতি বাজেট দেখিতে বেশ অভ্যস্ত হইয়াছি। আগামী বৎসরের বাজেটও যে ঘাটতি বাতীত বাড়তি হইবে না, সে বিষয়ে আমরা নিশ্চিত ছিলাম। কিন্তু সুলক্ষণ এই যে যত অধিক ঘাটতি আশঙ্কা করা গিয়েছিল, তাহা হয় নাই। আগামী বৎসরের বাজেট পর্য্যালোচনা করিয়া আমাদের মনে প্রথম যে প্রতিক্রিয়া হইয়াছে তাহা এই যে তাড়াতাড়ি করিয়া, গত জানুয়ারী মাসে সরিষার তৈল, জ্বালানি কাঠ, দিয়াশলাই, পুস্তক প্রভৃতি দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের নিত্য-প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষের উপর বিক্রয়-কর স্থাপন না করিলেও চলিত। অর্থমন্ত্রী মহাশয় staff expansion বাবদ আগামী বৎসরের জন্য থোক এক কোটি টাকা বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন। চলতি বৎসরেও এই বাবদ বহু অর্থ ব্যয় হইয়াছে। এক বৎসরে এই কাজের জন্য এত অধিক ব্যয় না করিলেও অনায়াসে চলিতে পারে। কংগ্রেস সরকার মাথা-ভারী শাসন ব্যবস্থার বিরুদ্ধে তীব্র সমালোচনা করিয়া আসিয়াছে। কিন্তু আমরা অত্যন্ত দুঃখের সহিত দেখিতে পাইতেছি কংগ্রেসী মন্ত্রিদের হস্তে ক্ষমতা আসা সত্ত্বেও ভারী মাথা নিত্য আরও ভারী করা হইতেছে। পূর্ব্বে চীফ ইঞ্জিনিয়ার একজন ছিলেন, এখন ৫ জন হইয়াছে। যুক্তবাংলায় যেখানে ২ জন কন্‌জারভেটর অব

করেছেন ছিলেন, সেখানে খণ্ডিত বাংলার অর্দ্ধপরিমাণ বনভূমির জন্য তিনজন Conservator of Forests ও একজন Director হইয়াছেন। Divisional Commissioner, Superintending Engineer প্রভৃতি পদ আজও অব্যাহত রহিয়াছে। এইগুলি যে কেবলমাত্র নিষ্প্রয়োজন তাহা নহে, সময়মত কার্য্য সমাধান পক্ষে বাধা স্বরূপ হইয়া দাঁড়াইয়াছে বলিয়া আমাদের বিশ্বাস। বর্ত্তমানে মহাকরণে যে দারুণ অব্যবস্থা রাজত্ব করিতেছে, তাহার কারণ কর্ম্মচারীর অভাব নহে; সুপরিকল্পিত পরিকল্পনার অভাব, উচ্চতন কর্ত্তৃপক্ষের সময় সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণে ইতস্ততঃ করণ, ক্ষমতা কেন্দ্রীকরণের দিকে অত্যন্ত ঝোঁক, লালফিতার দৌরাত্ম্য, কর্ম্মচারিগণের কর্ম্মে শৈথিল্য প্রভৃতিই উহার কারণ। কর্ম্মচারী-সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি করিলে, লালফিতার জেঁড় বৃদ্ধি পাইয়া মহাকরণে বিষম বা confusion বাড়িবে মাত্র। মহাকরণের কার্য্য পরিচালনার নিয়মাবলীর বর্ত্তমান সময়োপযোগী করিয়া সংস্কার প্রয়োজন। নতুবা আমরা যত টাকাই বরাদ্দ করি না কেন, সেই অনুপাতে সুফল পাওয়া যাইবে না। গ্রামে গ্রামে Public Health unitএর ঘর বাড়ীর জন্য গত ১৯৪৭-৪৮ সাল হইতে অর্থ বরাদ্দ হইতেছে। চলতি বছরে প্রচুর অর্থ বরাদ্দ সত্ত্বেও এই কার্য্য যে মোটে অগ্রসর হইতেছে না, তাহার কারণ Engineerএর অভাব নহে, চিকিৎসাবিভাগ কর্ত্তৃপক্ষের অনবহিতচিত্ততা। মন্ত্রিসভার প্রতি আমাদের অনুরোধ এই যে--এই expansion of staff খাতে কল্পিত অর্থব্যয় অন্ততঃ অর্দ্ধেক সঙ্কোচ করিয়া, দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের নিত্য-প্রয়োজনীয় দ্রব্যের উপর বিক্রয়-কর ধার্য্যের নূতন ব্যবস্থা রহিত করুন।

কংগ্রেস বরাবর decentralisation বা বিকেন্দ্রীকরণের উপরই জোর দিয়া আসিয়াছে। কিন্তু আমরা দুঃখের সহিত লক্ষ্য করিয়া আসিতেছি যে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভা কেন্দ্রীকরণের প্রতিই বিশেষ ঝোঁক দিতেছেন। এইজন্য বাজেটে District Board, Municipality প্রভৃতি স্বায়ত্ত-শাসনমূলক প্রতিষ্ঠানকে সাহায্যের বিশেষ কোন বরাদ্দ দেখিতেছি না। Motor Vehicles Tax বাবদ যে অর্থ আদায় হয়, চলতি বৎসরের বাজেটে উহার এক চতুর্থাংশ টাকা মাত্র বরাদ্দ হইয়াছিল, সংশোধিত বাজেটে দেখিতেছি ঐ অঙ্ক শূন্যে পর্য্যবসিত হইয়াছে। আগামী বৎসরের বাজেটে নামমাত্র ২,০০,০০০৲ টাকা বরাদ্দ হইয়াছে। এই করের উপর এই সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের ন্যায্য দাবী আছে। এই অর্থ সাহায্যের উপর নগর ও গ্রামের রাস্তার উন্নতি অনেকাংশে নির্ভর করিত। কেন্দ্রীকরণের ঝোঁক এতদূর গিয়াছে যে দৃষ্টান্ত স্বরূপ দেখান যাইতে পারে--জলপাইগুড়ি জেলার মফঃস্বলে ৬টী R. C. Ring Well বা পাকা পাতকুয়া খনন বাবদ মোট আনুমানিক ব্যয় ৬,৬০০৲ টাকার জন্য কলিকাতা হইতে Public Healthএর Chief Engineer tender আহ্বান করিয়াছেন। কলিকাতায় প্রতি tender form পাঁচ টাকা মূল্যে ক্রয় করিয়া estimate প্রভৃতি details জানার জন্য পাঁচ টাকা দক্ষিণা দিয়া যথাযোগ্য earnest money জমা দিয়া Chief Engineerএর অফিসে tender submit করিতে হইবে। সুদূর জলপাইগুড়ির মফঃস্বলের এই ৬,০০০৲ টাকার কার্য্যের জন্য কলিকাতার কোন contractor tender দিবে না; জলপাইগুড়ির কোন contractorও এত খরচপত্র করিয়া আসিয়া tender দিবে না--ইহা অনুমান করা যাইতে পারে। সুতরাং বর্ত্তমান বৎসরে ঐ কূপ খনন করা হইবে না বলা যাইতে পারে। একটী মাত্র উদাহরণ দিলাম। এই সামান্য কার্য্যের ভার কি জেলা বোর্ডের উপর অথবা ঐ Public Health Departmentএই ঐ জেলায় নিযুক্ত B. E. পাশ Assistant Engineerএর উপর অথবা জেলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের উপর ন্যস্ত করা যাইত না? Rural water-supplyর জন্য যে টাকা বর্ত্তমান বৎসরে বরাদ্দ আছে তাহাও এই একই কারণে সম্পূর্ণ খরচ হইবে না। ফাটাপুকুরির বারহাজার একরের যৌথ কৃষি ফার্ম্মের এক হাজারের অধিক বাস্তুহারা অধিবাসী জলাভাবে দারুণ কষ্ট পাইতেছে--মহামারী লাগা বিচিত্র নয়--এই কেন্দ্রীকরণ ব্যবস্থার দরুণ সময়মত কূপ খনন হইতেছে না। জেলার Deputy Commissioner মহাশয় ভার লইতে চাহিয়া পত্র ও রেডিওগ্রাম করিয়াছেন--জানি না মহাকরণের নিদ্রাভঙ্গ হইয়াছে কিনা। পশ্চিমবঙ্গ ভূমি উন্নয়ন ও দখলীকরণ আইনের সহায়তায় মাত্র ৫ একর পতিত আমাদের অযোগ্য জমি দখল লইতে Cabinetের সম্মতি লইতে হইবে--এমনি ব্যবস্থা। প্রতি জেলা বোর্ডের জনস্বাস্থ্য বিভাগ থাকে--District Health Officer আছেন, থানায় থানায় Sanitary Inspector প্রভৃতি আছেন। তৎসত্ত্বেও সরকার হইতে মহকুমায় মহকুমায় Subdivisional Health Officer, Health Assistants প্রভৃতি নিয়োগের তাৎপর্য্য কি? ইহাদের কার্য্যভার কি জেলাবোর্ডের জনস্বাস্থ্য কর্ম্মচারিগণের অনুরূপ নহে? এই duplication of work কেন? Subdivisional Health Officerগণ সরাসরি Director of Public Healthএর অধীন। তাহাদের উপর কোন local control নাই। জেলা বোর্ডগুলির উপর আস্থা না থাকিলে উহাদের ঐ বিভাগ তুলিয়া দেওয়াই ভাল। একই কার্য্যের জন্য দুই দফায় খরচের কোন অর্থ হয় না। ক্ষমতা কেন্দ্রগত করার যে স্পৃহা দেখা যাইতেছে মন্ত্রিসভাকে তাহার ভালোমন্দ স্থিরবুদ্ধিতে বিচার করিয়া দেখিবার জন্য অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি।

অর্থমন্ত্রী মহাশয় তাহার বাজেট বক্তৃতায় উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধিকে আমাদের সর্ব্বপ্রথম প্রয়োজন ও লক্ষ্য বলিয়া স্বীকার করিয়াছেন। উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধির পরিকল্পনায় প্রথমেই খাদ্যশস্যের কথা মনে হয়--বিশেষ করিয়া পশ্চিমবঙ্গ এই বিষয়ে দারুণ ঘাটতি প্রদেশ। পশ্চিম বাংলায় ১২ লক্ষ একরএরও উপর আবাদযোগ্য পতিত ভূমি আছে। জলপাইগুড়ি জেলায় একটানায় পাঁচ হাজার একরএরও উপর আবাদযোগ্য পতিত জমি আছে। এইগুলিকে আবাদে পরিণত করিতে পারিলে, একাধারে অধিক শস্য ফলানো, প্রদেশের ঘাটতি পূরণ ও বাস্তুহারা কৃষকদের পুনর্বসতি সমস্যার সমাধান হইতে পারে। এ দিকে বাজেটে বিশেষ ভরসাযোগ্য কিছু দেখিলাম না। এ বিষয়ে অন্যান্য প্রদেশের প্রচেষ্টা উল্লেখযোগ্য। কৃষি-উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা খাতে যে ৪১,২৬,০০০৲ বরাদ্দ হইয়াছে, তদ্দ্বারা খাদ্যশস্য বৃদ্ধির আশু কোন সম্ভাবনা নাই। কৃষিবিভাগ কেমিক্যাল সার ও বীজ বিতরণ করিয়াই অধিক শস্য ফলাইবার সমস্যা সমাধানের ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন। বীজ যদি ভাল ও সতেজ হয় এবং সময়মত সরবরাহ হয়, তাহা হইলে অবশ্য শুভ ফল দিবে সন্দেহ নাই কিন্তু এ পর্য্যন্ত এই উভয়েরই অভাব দেখিয়াছি। কেমিক্যাল সার বিষয়ে অভিজ্ঞতা বিভাগীয় গ্রাম্য কর্ম্মচারীদের থাকা চাই। নতুবা কৃষকগণ ইহার ব্যবহারে প্রবৃত্ত হইবে না।

উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি ব্যাপারে কৃষির পরেই শিল্পের কথা মনে হয়। এই বিভাগে পশ্চিম বাংলায় এ পর্য্যন্ত বিশেষ কিছু করা হয় নাই। আগামী বৎসরের বাজেটও আশার সঞ্চার করিতে পারে নাই। গ্রাম্য কুটির শিল্পের উন্নয়ন সম্পর্কিত কোন কার্য্যকরী পরিকল্পনার উল্লেখ বাজেটে দেখিতে পাইলাম না। পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার কেবলমাত্র রেশম শিল্পে কিছুটা সাহায্য করিয়া থাকেন কিন্তু তাহাও মাত্র ২/৩টী জেলার মধ্যে নিবদ্ধ। জলপাইগুড়ি জেলার এতি শিল্পকে সাহায্য করিবার কোন পরিকল্পনা এবার বাজেটেও দেখিতে পাইলাম না। শিল্প অর্থমন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের নিজস্ব বিভাগ। এই বিভাগের নিষ্ক্রিয়তা বেদনাদায়ক। জলপাইগুড়ি-দার্জিলিং জেলার সীমানার সন্নিকটে কয়লা খনিতে কার্য্য চলিতেছে। Hydro-electric scheme কার্য্যকরী করিতে প্রাথমিক প্রচুর অর্থের প্রয়োজন। খনির নিকট Thermal station স্থাপন করিয়া সহজেই এই দুইটী গুরুত্বপূর্ণ জেলায় সস্তায় electricity সরবরাহ চলিতে পারে। এই দিকে শিল্পমন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি।

শিল্প অপেক্ষা মৎস্য চাষে পশ্চিম বাংলা সরকার অধিক ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন--মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের সৌভাগ্য সূচিত হইতেছে। মৎস্যবৃদ্ধি অপেক্ষা কর্ম্মচারী বৃদ্ধি বিষয়ে এই বিভাগের কৃতিত্ব অধিক। (Cries of "Hear, Hear"—"Laughter".)

যুদ্ধোত্তর উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা খাতে যে চারি কোটি একাশি লক্ষ টাকা ধরা হইয়াছে তাহার অর্দ্ধেকেরও অধিক টাকা অর্থাৎ প্রায় ২ কোটি ৫৮ লক্ষ টাকা চিকিৎসা ও স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগে বরাদ্দ করিয়া প্রধান মন্ত্রী ডাঃ রায় নিজের কোলে ঝোল টানিয়াছেন। চিকিৎসা ও স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগে অধিক অর্থ বরাদ্দ হইয়াছে বটে কিন্তু দেশের বর্ত্তমান পরিবেশে এবং কর্ম্মকর্ত্তৃগণের কর্ম্মকুশলতার যে পরিচয় পাওয়া যাইতেছে, তাহাতে উহা সম্পূর্ণ ব্যয়িত হইবে কিনা ভারতর সন্দেহ আছে।

শিক্ষা বিভাগ এবার কিছুটা সুবিচার পাইয়াছে বটে কিন্তু প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার অবস্থা যে তিমিরে সেই তিমিরেই রহিয়া গিয়াছে। প্রাথমিক শিক্ষকের অবস্থার কোন উন্নতি নাই। বর্ত্তমান যুগে Matric G. T. শিক্ষককে ২৭ টাকা মাত্র মাসিক বেতন দিয়া শিক্ষাদান চলিতে পারে না। আমার বক্তব্য এখানেই শেষ করিতেছি।

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-25 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Friday, the 4th March, 1949, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 4th March, 1949, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Sri ASHUTOSH MALLICK) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 58 members.

Delivery of letters to Members.

Sri ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয় অধিবেশন আরম্ভ হবার পূর্বে আমি একটা কথা বলতে চাই। টেবিলের উপর যে চিঠিগুলি পড়ে থাকে তার সংস্কারের ব্যবস্থা করলে হয়। চিঠিগুলি যে অবস্থায় আছে, তাতে খুঁজে বার করা খুবই কঠিন। চিঠিগুলি প্রায়ই পাওয়া যায় না। এর একটা ব্যবস্থা করলে ভাল হয়।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall look into the matter.

আচ্ছা, ব্যবস্থা করা যাবে।

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Inundated area east of Bengal Tanning Institute.

***22. Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) if he is aware that the area east of Bengal Tanning Institute is inundated with rain water;

(*b*) if it is a fact that this area remains water-logged during rains every year;

(*c*) if it is a fact that an application was made by Messrs. Dost Mohamad & Co., Ltd., in 1946 and then again in 1947 to lay a pipe under the road to drain off rain water from the godowns into the canal;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that inspection of the area was made by the Irrigation Department of the Government of West Bengal; and

(*e*) that the inspecting officer recommended the laying of a pipe?

MINISTER in charge of the IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sri Bhupati Majumdar): (*a*) Yes; a small area lying on the east of Bengal Tanning Institute and occupied by Messrs. Dost Mohamad & Co., Ltd., was inundated with rain water last year.

(*b*) Yes, in case of excessive rainfall.

(*c*) An application from the honourable member on behalf of the Company was received in 1947.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Permission to the laying of a pipe subject to usual conditions has been accorded.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that a licence fee of Rs. 10 per annum has been demanded from this firm and a security deposit of Rs. 200 from the same firm for permission to the laying of a pipe?

The Hon'ble Sri BHUPATI MAJUMDAR: Yes, those are the stipulated conditions.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Is it a fact that in the past no such licence fee has been realised and no such security deposit has been demanded from any such firm?

The Hon'ble Sri BHUPATI MAJUMDAR: I want notice.

Pay, allowances and nature of duties of the staff of the Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi.

*23. **Srijukta BINA BHOWMICK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical and Public Health Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of—

(A) matrons,

(B) ayahs, and

(C) nurses,

in the Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi, showing the rate of pay and allowances of each of the three categories;

(*ii*) whether the matrons work in both men's and women's sections of the hospital;

(*iii*) the number of hours they are to work per day;

(*iv*) whether it is a fact that private ayahs are to work ten hours a day; and

(*v*) whether it is a fact that the rate of punishments in women's section is more than that in the men's section in comparison with the strength of the staff of the two sections?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) (*ii*), (*iv*) and (*v*) are in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of taking steps in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the MEDICAL and PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy): (*a*) (*i*) (A) One. Rs. 200—10—250 and special pay Rs. 25 (revised scale).

(B) Ninety-two. Rs.28—1/2—40 (revised scale).

(C) Four. Rs.100—5—125 (E.B.)—5—150 and special pay Rs.10 (revised scale).

(*ii*) and (*iv*) No.

(*iii*) Usually 8 hours.

(*v*) Yes.

(*b*) It is a matter for the Managing Committee to take any steps found necessary. This Managing Committee is administratively under the Government of Bihar.

*24. **Sri J. C. GUPTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical and Public Health Department be pleased to state—

(i) the number of—

(A) matrons,

(B) ayahs, and

(C) nurses,

in the Indian Mental Hospital, Ranchi, showing the rate of pay and allowances of each of the three categories;

(ii) whether the matrons work in both men's and women's sections of the hospital;

(iii) the number of hours they are to work per day;

(iv) whether it is a fact that private ayahs are to work ten hours a day; and

(v) whether it is a fact that the rate of punishments in women's section is more than that in the men's section in comparison with the strength of the staff of the two sections?

(b) If the answers to (a) (ii), (iv) and (v) are in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of taking steps in the matter?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: The member is referred to the reply to starred question No 23 by Srijukta Bina Bhowmick, M.L.A., on the same subject.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Expenditure on cattle improvement scheme and distribution of milch-cows.

6. **Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOUDHURY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state the approximate amount spent—

(i) during the period from 15th August, 1947, up to February, 1948, and

(ii) if available, for the years 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46, 1946-47 and up to 14th August, 1947.

on the purchase of or improvement in the breeding of milch-cows in the Province?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of milch-cows and breeding bulls distributed during the same period to the villagers by Government?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have any scheme for free or subsidised supply of milch-cows to the villagers?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sri Jadabendra Nath Panja): (a) and (b) A statement of expenditure on the purchase of breeding bulls, and on cattle improvement scheme and distribution of milch-cows and breeding bulls is laid on the Table.

(c) There is no such scheme at present.

Statement referred to in clauses (a) and (b) of the reply to unstarred question No. 6

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE ON THE PURCHASE OF BREEDING BULLS, CATTLE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME AND OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF MILCH-COWS AND BREEDING BULLS.

Year.	Expenditure on purchase of breeding bulls.	Expenditure on cattle improvement scheme.	Distribution of breeding bulls.	Distribution on milch-cows.
	Rs.	Rs.		
1943-44 ..	Nil	1,06,700	Nil	Nil
1944-45 ..	69,300	1,90,200	200	Nil
1945-46 ..	39,600	1,93,000	131	Nil
1946-47 ..	1,65,800	5,36,500	555	Nil
From 1st April, 1947, to 14th August, 1947.	Nil	Not available	Nil	Nil
From 15th August, 1947, to February, 1948.	767	39,800	6	Nil

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় জানাবেন কি যে তিনি গরুর উন্নতি সম্পর্কে বলেছেন যে তাঁর কোন scheme নাই—তাতে কি বুঝব যে তিনি গরুর কিছু উন্নতি করতে চান না—না কি ব্যাপার? এ কথার অর্থই বা কি?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : গাই সম্বন্ধে এখানে subsidy ভাবে কিছু দেওয়া হয় না; subsidy হিসাবে দেওয়ার কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই।

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলবেন কি যে গরুর উন্নতির জন্য—সে গাই হউক, বলদ হউক বা ষাঁড় হউক—তার উন্নতির জন্য তাঁর কোন scheme আছে কি না?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : হাঁ, তার জন্য scheme আছে, কিন্তু subsidy হিসাবে লোককে দেওয়ার সম্বন্ধে কোন scheme নাই। গরুর উন্নতির জন্য ষাঁড় এনে লোককে দেওয়ার সম্বন্ধে scheme আছে।

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI : সেটা কি ভাবে দেওয়া হয় তা জানতে পারি কি?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : একটা localityর লোককে দেওয়া হয় এবং গরুকে খাওয়াবার জন্য ১৫৲ টাকা কোরে মাস মাস তাকে দেওয়া হয়।

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় জানেন কি যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে এই রকমভাবে একটা লোককে ১৫৲ টাকা খরচ দিয়ে যে ষাঁড় দেওয়া হয় সেই ষাঁড়ের অবস্থা Linlithgow ষাঁড়ের যে অবস্থা হয়েছিল তাদের খেতে না দেওয়ার সেই রকম অবস্থা হয়েছে এবং সেগুলো ক্রমে অকেজো হয়ে যাচ্ছে।

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : না, একথা সত্য নয়।

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলবেন কি যে কতগুলি এই রকম ষাঁড় বাংলা দেশে দেওয়া আছে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : আমি নোটিশ চাই।

Sri KANAI LAL DE: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় জানাবেন কি যে সম্প্রতি ২৪-পরগণা জেলার পাঞ্জাব থেকে যে ষাঁড় আনা হয়েছে তার কতকগুলি বলদে পরিণত হয়েছে—একথা সত্য কি না।

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: আমি নোটিশ চাই।

Janab A. F. M. ABDUR RAHAMAN: আমরা দেখছি যে ষাঁড়ের খরচ উত্তরোত্তর বেড়ে চলেছে। এই ষাঁড়গুলো কি উদ্দেশ্যে দেওয়া হয়েছে গ্রামবাসীকে তা মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি বলবেন?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: প্রজননের উন্নতির জন্য অর্থাৎ যাতে ভাল রকম বাছুর হয় তার জন্যই ষাঁড় দেওয়া হয়।

Janab A. F. M. ABDUR RAHAMAN: যে উদ্দেশ্যে দেওয়া হয়েছে সেই উদ্দেশ্য ঠিকভাবে কার্য্যকরী হচ্ছে কি? তার ব্যবস্থা মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় করেছেন কি?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: তা দেখার জন্য Livestock Officer আছেন।

Sri ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: যেখানে এই রকম ষাঁড় আছে সেখানে local peopleএর কোন কর্ত্তব্য আছে কিনা।

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: সেখানকার লোকেরও কর্ত্তব্য আছে; তাদের লক্ষ্য রাখা উচিত যাতে সেখানে উপযুক্তভাবে বাছুরগুলি রাখা হয়। কিন্তু অনেক সময় তা না হয়ে সেগুলি তারা বিক্রী করে দেয়। সেজন্য সেই localityতে যতটা উন্নতি হওয়া উচিত ছিল গাই এবং ষাঁড়ের সম্বন্ধে ততটা উন্নতি হচ্ছে না।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলবেন কি যে, যে সমস্ত ষাঁড় দেশে আছে সেগুলি সমস্ত পুরাতন, রুগ্ন, জীর্ণ, অকর্ম্মণ্য—Linlithgow ষাঁড় না বর্ত্তমানে ভাল ষাঁড় কিছু আনা হয়েছে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: বর্ত্তমানে যে ষাঁড়গুলি দেওয়া হয়েছে সেগুলি ভাল আছে, সেগুলি বর্দ্ধমান জেলার কেতুগ্রাম থানায় আছে।

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: যেভাবে গভর্ণমেণ্ট ১৫৲ টাকা খরচ দিয়ে ষাঁড় দেন তাতে দেখা যায় তারা সেই টাকা খেয়ে ফেলে এবং দিনকতক বাদে ষাঁড়গুলি মারা যায় বা শুকিয়ে যায়—একথা মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অস্বীকার করেন কি?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: আমি যতদূর জানি একথা সত্য নয়।

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: তাহ'লে এই schemeএ অনুসারে দেশে গরুর উন্নতি হচ্ছে।

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: যেখানে দেওয়া আছে সেখানকার গরুর উন্নতি হচ্ছে।

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলবেন কি—লোকের উপর না চাপিয়ে এবং গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাদের লাভের না এড়িয়ে বিভিন্ন localityতে গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে Breeding farm করবার ব্যবস্থা করবেন কি না?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: সে রকম পরিকল্পনা নেওয়া হচ্ছে এবং সেগুলি বিবেচনাধীন আছে।

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় জানাবেন কি যে অধিকাংশ ষাঁড় ব্রহ্মচর্য্য পালন করছে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: আমি যতদূর জানি তাতে বলতে পারি যে ভালভাবেই ষাঁড়গুলি আছে।

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: এই পরিকল্পনা যাতে শীঘ্র কার্য্যে পরিণত হয় সে বিষয়ে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় চেষ্টা করবেন কিনা?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: চেষ্টা করবো।

Sri KANAI LAL DE: ভাত না খেতে পেয়ে মরেছে এ খবর তিনি পান নি, কিন্তু গোজাতির যে উন্নতি হচ্ছে সে সম্বন্ধে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে জিজ্ঞাসা করি যে তিনি কি কোন statistics পান যে কোন কোন জায়গায় এবং কি পরিমাণ উন্নতি হয়েছে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDR NATH PANJA: নোটিশ চাই; তবে বলতে পারি বেলডাঙা অঞ্চলে বিশেষ কোরে উন্নতি হয়েছে।

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: In view of the fact that a stud bull cannot be had for less than Rs. 1,000, how many were purchased for Rs. 767, spent from 15th August, 1947, to February, 1948?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: I ask for notice.

Donations and subscriptions by the public to the provincialised hospitals.

7. Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOUDHURY: মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী মহোদয় অনুগ্রহপূর্ব্বক জানাইবেন কি পশ্চিম বাংলার জেলাসমূহে ১৯৪৩ সন হইতে ১৯৪৮ সনের ১লা জানুয়ারী পর্য্যন্ত যে সকল হাসপাতাল সরকারের নিজস্ব পরিচালনাধীনে আসিয়াছে সেই সকল হাসপাতালে তখন জনসাধারণ কর্ত্তৃক প্রদত্ত তহবিলের মোট কত টাকা সরকারের তহবিলের অন্তর্ভুক্ত হইয়াছে?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: টেবিলের উপর একটি বর্ণনাপত্র রাখা হইয়াছে।

Statement referred to in reply to unstarred question No. 7.

পশ্চিম বঙ্গের জেলাসমূহে সরকারের নিজস্ব পরিচালনাধীনে সদর ও মহকুমা হাসপাতালগুলিতে ১৯৪৩ সন হইতে ১৯৪৮সনের ১লা জানুয়ারী পর্য্যন্ত সময়ে জনসাধারণ কর্ত্তৃক প্রদত্ত চাঁদার বর্ণনাপত্র।

জেলা।	হাসপাতাল।	টাকা।
বর্দ্ধমান ..	বর্দ্ধমান সদর	৭০,৩১৪৲
	কাটোয়া মহকুমা ..	১,৮২৭॥০
	কালনা মহকুমা ..	৯,৬৯০৲
	আসানসোল মহকুমা ..	৪,৬৬৩৲
বাঁকুড়া ..	বাঁকুড়া সদর ..	১,৬১৫৲
	বিষ্ণুপুর মহকুমা ..	কিছুই না।
বীরভূম ..	সিউড়ী সদর ..	কিছুই না।
	রামপুরহাট মহকুমা ..	৩,৪৫৭৲
হাওড়া ..	হাওড়া সদর ..	কিছুই না।
	উলুবেড়িয়া মহকুমা ..	৮,৯৩৩৲
হুগলী ..	ইমামবাড়া সদর ..	কিছুই না।
	শ্রীরামপুর ওয়ার্ড ..	ঐ
	আরামবাগ মহকুমা ..	ঐ

জেলা।	হাসপাতাল।	টাকা।
মেদিনীপুর ..	মেদিনীপুর সদর ..	৫,৮৩৬৲
	ঘাটাল মহকুমা ..	২,০৫৪৲
	ঝাড়গ্রাম মহকুমা ..	৩,৫০৮৷৶৬
	কণ্টাই মহকুমা ..	কিছুই না।
	তমলুক মহকুমা ..	ঐ
২৪-পরগণা ..	বসিরহাট মহকুমা ..	৫,৫২০৷৶৯
	বনগাঁ মহকুমা ..	কিছুই না।
	বারাসত মহকুমা ..	ঐ
	ডায়মণ্ড হারবার ..	১,৬৫১৲
মুর্শিদাবাদ ..	বহরমপুর সদর ..	৫,২৮২৲
	লালবাগ মহকুমা ..	২,৭৩৯৲
	জঙ্গীপুর মহকুমা ..	৬৪৬৲
নদীয়া ..	কৃষ্ণনগর সদর ..	১২,১১৮৲
	রাণাঘাট মহকুমা ..	কিছুই না।
দার্জিলিং ..	ভিক্টোরিয়া সদর ..	১৬,৩৩২৷৷০
	কার্সিয়াং মহকুমা ..	১৭,৩০০৲
	শিলিগুড়ী মহকুমা ..	২,৩০০৲
জলপাইগুড়ী ..	জলপাইগুড়ী সদর ..	১,৪১,০৭১৷৶০
	আলিপুরদুয়ার মহকুমা ..	৯,২০৩৷০
মালদহ ..	মালদহ সদর ..	২,১৫১৷৷৯
পশ্চিম দিনাজপুর ..	বালুরঘাট ..	কিছুই না।

Mr. JASIMUDDIN AHMED : টেবিলের উপর একটা স্বর্ণনামপত্র রাখা হয়েছে—কোন টেবিলের উপর ?

(No answer.)

Mr. JASIMUDDIN AHMED : ২৪-পরগণা জেলার সদর মহকুমায় কত টাকা আদায় হয়েছে বলতে পারেন কি ?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY : আমি জেনে বলব।

Mr. JASIMUDDIN AHMED : পেপারে অন্য-সব মহকুমার কথা আছে, সদর মহকুমা কি বাদ পড়ে গেল ?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY : যেটা দেওয়া নাই সেটা দেখে দেব।

Premier's Statement on Dum Dum Raid.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of West Bengal had issued Press statements on Sunday, the 27th of February, and Monday and Tuesday, giving the public the main points regarding the incidents which took place on Saturday, the 26th. The Press Reporters, I am glad to say, also gave fairly correct

detailed accounts of what happened on that day. If I have delayed in placing this statement before the House it is because I was trying to piece together small bits of information received from different quarters, and after appraising the value of those information I propose to deal with the subject from three angles: (*a*) what was the course of events which occurred on Saturday and what was the extent of the damage done; (*b*) who were the raiders and what was their likely objective; and (*c*) what measure should we pursue in order to avoid a recurrence of such incidents. Let me take the first point. It appears that on Saturday, the 26th, the raiders hired four taxis from different parts of the town and drove towards the Dum Dum aerodrome. At about 11 a.m. two of these taxis were noticed to be moving up and down in front of Jessop's Factory at Dum Dum. At about 11-15 a.m. five or six persons moved into the factory and went into a room where there were three Europeans and an Excise Inspector discussing certain matters and without warning threw a bomb at one of the gentlemen. There is no doubt whatsoever that the whole thing was a planned attack. As soon as the first bomb was thrown, the members of the Labour Union of Jessop's Factory joined in this orgy of violence. It is significant that although some members of the Mechanical Department of Jessop's Factory were discharged on the 24th of February, 1949, that is to say, two days before the actual raid took place, the raid started in another part of the factory, namely, the Structural Department whereas retrenchment took place in the Mechanical Department of the factory. Before the discharge was announced, the police was informed and they had placed a fairly heavy enforcement on the 24th and 25th of February in order to meet any apprehended trouble due to the retrenchment. Curiously enough, however, there was no evidence either of unrest or of any marked discontent on the part of the staff on this issue on Thursday and Friday, so much so that as everything seemed to be normal and quiet, the extra police arrangement was withdrawn on the afternoon of Friday. That is not the whole story. The Secretary of the Labour Union telephoned to the Labour Commissioner asking for an interview for the purpose of discussing the problem of retrenchment—that was on Friday—and it was arranged that the Secretary would meet the Assistant Labour Commissioner on Monday. This again proved that up till Friday the workers of the factories did not show by their conduct, action or speech that they violently resented the retrenchment. As a matter of fact, as I have just indicated, their attitude was to discuss and arrive at a solution on the matter involved in retrenchment, and the time was fixed for Monday. But as soon as the Works Manager of the factory was attacked in his room, the raiders proceeded to attack other officers, as a result of which three Europeans were killed and thrown into a burning furnace and one was stabbed and he died afterwards of injury. Several other members of the staff, European and Indian, were attacked and badly mauled. This ghastly and nauseating tragedy was completed within a quarter of an hour. Bombs and knives were used and the raiders were seen armed with sten guns and bren guns, and later the police recovered from the drawer of the President of the Labour Union a large quantity of ammunition. Almost simultaneously with their raid on Jessop's, another party attacked the Branch Ammunition Factory almost opposite. They threw a bomb at the sentry and shot at him. Then one of the raiders picked up the rifle of the guard and went inside the building. Fortunately he was given a chase and being alone he skipped out of the window leaving the rifle behind and drove off.

After raiding these areas, all the four taxis and a truck arrived at Dum Dum Aerodrome at about 12 noon. The raiders were between 25 and 30 in number. At Dum Dum they commandeered a private car with the threat of a revolver and it appears that some of the raiders went towards the hangar and set fire to an aeroplane. This was obviously a ruse to divert the attention of the guards and the sentries at the air port. Some of the raiders

then attacked the sentry in front of the bullion room and vitally wounded the guard with a bullet. They shot at the other guard and picked up seven rifles from the armoury and decamped. They then pushed out the drivers of two of the taxi cabs and forced the drivers of the other vehicles to follow their direction at the point of revolver. News reached the Police Headquarters at Calcutta and Barackpore between a quarter to twelve and twelve that there was attack on Jessop's Factory and Dum Dum Aerodrome. Simultaneously, armed police parties were sent from Barrackpore and Calcutta. At the outset, it was very difficult to judge which way the raiders would proceed from the Dum Dum Aerodrome. News and warnings were, therefore, issued in all directions. Soon after the raiders cut the telephone and telegraphic communications of the area raided or about to be raided. Eventually the raiders went up the Jessore Road and reached Barasat. On the way they attacked the Gouripore police-station. The guards there had been warned previously by the Police Headquarters. There was an exchange of shots and one of the raiders was hit on the head and the sentry constable was injured. The raiders then went past Barasat along Basirhat Road. On the way they met a jeep in which the Subdivisional Officer of Basirhat was coming westward to Dhankure, followed by the Chairman of the Basirhat Municipality in another car. Both the vehicles were stopped and the Subdivisional Officer and the Chairman were arrested and taken back to Basirhat in their own vehicles. The raiders then attacked the thana in full force, killed two of the guards and proceeded thence to the officers' quarters next door and one party went towards the armoury. They collected 26 rifles from the armoury and created a violent confusion all round. Seeing that the thana could no longer be saved, the thana officer scaled the wall of his compound and ran to the treasury, which was about three-quarters of a mile away from the thana, to give the treasury guards a warning. When some of the raiders attacked the treasury and the sub-jail next door, the guards there opened fire and overpowered the raiders. Two of them were arrested—one of them after he was injured by a bullet. Meanwhile the police party from Calcutta arrived on the scene and there was an exchange of firing between the two for 15 minutes. In this scuffle one Inspector received a vital shot and he died, but the raiders were soon outnumbered and they tried to escape towards Hindaghat. The police proceeded to arrest them. Some evaded arrest and crossed the river in a boat closely pursued by the police. It appears that one group of raiders entered Pakistan where, we understand, several of them have been arrested by the Pakistan Government who had been warned by the Calcutta Police.

The raiders had secured 33 rifles from Dum Dum and Basirhat armouries—21 of them have been recovered. Besides these, a revolver, a pistol, a magazine of a sten gun, large quantities of ammunition, bombs, hand-grenades, 4 haversacks containing first-aid implements and a stethoscope, a blood-transfusion apparatus, a large volume of R. C. P. I. literature, all the taxis, the truck, the cars and a motor-cycle used for this raid have been recovered. Thirty-four persons have been arrested in connection with the raid and some workers of the Jessop's Factory were put under arrest as they were believed to have aided and abetted the raiders. Altogether four Europeans at Jessop's, one guard at Dum Dum, two sentries at Basirhat and a Police Inspector have been killed. A good many people were injured.

The next question to which I address myself is—Who were the raiders and what was their likely objective in perpetrating the raid? Let me answer the latter part of the question first. Were the raiders indulging in a vendetta against Jessop's for the retrenchment effected in the Mechanical Department? If so, why did they attack the people in the Structural Department where the staff was not retrenched? Did they start a pogrom against the Europeans only? If so, why did they not attack the

Europeans elsewhere? Why did they kill also three Indian guards and an Indian Inspector of Police in other places? Indeed, it appears that the raiders were indulging in an insensate orgy of violence without regard to immediate objectives. If they wanted to rob the bullion from the vault, why did they not do so as they had already killed the guard in front of the vault? They seemed satisfied after securing seven rifles from the armoury there. To my mind, it seems a clear assumption that their attacks on Dum Dum Ammunition Factory, on the ærodrome and the thana at Basirhat were for the purpose of procuring forcibly guns and ammunition. The literature obtained during the house-searches, in which a cyclostyle machine also has been recovered, show that there was a well-laid plot carefully planned for the purpose of creating an unusually striking situation and for collection of arms and ammunition and, if possible, escape with them into Pakistan *via* Basirhat.

It was obvious that the raiders were well-equipped with American implements, bombs, and explosives. They had collected quite a large quantity of them and wanted to increase their stock. The bigger the event, the more noise they would make, the greater would be their kudos. And they, perhaps, felt that on Saturday, the 26th, the Police Force would be busy with their Tollygunge Sports between 11 and 4, which was just the time that would suit them. The ghastly and fiendish scene created at Jessops was, to my mind, prompted by the same anxiety, namely, to create chaos and fearsome turmoil. The raiders mainly belonged to groups of R. C. P. I. with whom C. P. I. have, in this instance, worked together to bring about a coup. The murder of Englishmen fitted in well with the scheme, as the noise so created would spread far and wide, and even across the seas.

The next question—what is to be done? During the discussion on the adjournment motion moved in the Assembly in January last, I placed before the public and the members of the House, a poser: "Quo Vadis"—Where are you going? The Government, as every Government must, is trying to cope with a difficult and a complex situation—a situation which is created by factors which are operating in this country as in the rest of the world today. It is all very well for members both on this side of the House and on the other to talk glibly of lowering the cost of administration, of lessening the taxes and yet of maintaining efficiency in service and providing supplies and proper amenities for kisans and mazdoors. If we are really serious about safeguarding the present and securing a prosperous future for the country, let us not indulge in catchphrases and shibboleths. Hard words do not break any bones. But when I hear irresponsible and reckless criticisms of the Government, criticisms which are destructive and not constructive, I often wonder to what extent such an approach excites or, at any rate, invites the evil-doers, the subversive elements of society to put these criticisms into actual practice and repeat the performances of February 26.

If my proposition is correct, such reckless criticisms can only proceed from the agent provocateurs of the raiders. A great deal of responsibility, therefore, rests on our legislators and on the Press and the public who can mould and modulate public opinion in favour of law and order. I quite appreciate the advantage and usefulness of helpful and constructive criticisms levelled at any Government action. But while the general situation in the country is so chaotic, when there are active, vociferous unruly elements in society who know how to destroy and do not worry about construction, who take their cue from countries outside which are anxious to step into this country the moment chaos and confusion set in, one must be more cautious. Make no mistake, my friends. You have to choose your path here and today. It is not a tussle between two parties, both wedded to the principles of democracy, striving for mastery; but it is a struggle

between confusion, violence, anarchy on the one hand and peace and orderly society on the other, between fascism and democracy, between destruction and construction. I have often heard it mentioned in this Assembly, and I have read the literature of the communists, where we are dubbed as capitalists and fascists. Who are the fascists? Fascists are those who attempt to compel others to submit to their will, by compulsion, force, fury and threat and not those who prefer the path of the ballot box and discussion, adjustment and agreement. They are those who prefer the rule of the jungle to the laws of civilised society. Therefore, I say again—choose your way. You dare not do anything today to destroy your country, to kill its production, to lower its strength and power. When the country is stabilised, time then will be when one democratic party may replace another by convincing, not coercing, the people of the superiority of their own claim for running a Government. On the other hand, a complacent, non possumus attitude of the public towards these evildoers furnishes the necessary fillip to the unruly subversive elements of society to play their game, create anarchy and chaos in which they revel. Let us resolve, be active and join hands to kill this ugly canker from the body politic or else culture and good order will be killed in this land. Police force and governmental machinery can do little in this immense grim struggle unless the people's support is available. I call upon you, the representatives of the people, to stand by an orderly Government and destroy this growing indiscipline in our midst. (Applause.)

General Discussion of the Budget.

Dr. P. C. GHOSH: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, as a member of the Congress Legislative Party I am an integral part of the administrative machinery and I speak with that sense of responsibility. Still I feel constrained to say that the whole philosophy behind the budget is one of making the rich richer and the poor poorer. My friend Mr. Debendra Nath Sen said, "it is one of keeping the rich rich and the poor poor". But it is not as static as that it is dynamic. I hope it will not be taken as personal criticism, and I appeal to the Hon'ble Finance Minister to amend the budget proper if the arguments that I advance commend themselves to him both on the philosophic outlook as well as the objective reality.

I shall first deal with the subjective reality because unless an administrator can deal with the subjective reality or the psychology of the Nation we utterly fail to deal with the objective reality.

There is a special pleading for a sectional interest in the budget statement. He says that a man earning a lakh of rupees gets only Rs. 48,000. Yes, that is true but it is equally true that there are thousands in this country who do not get their required quantity, even the minimum quantity of vegetable oil. I am one of those who believe that even the Vedanti cannot flourish without a minimum modicum of proteins, carbohydrate, fat, mineral salts, vitamins and water within 24 hours. I only appeal to our Finance Minister to consider dispassionately the case of a man who does not get his minimum quantity of vegetable oil when he sympathises with a man earning a lakh of rupees getting only Rs. 48,000 after payment of taxes. Then he says that some men have become rich probably by evasion of sales tax, etc., but he adds "in the final analysis these are the symbolic expressions of the lack of our national character" and "ultimately a problem of improving the basic human raw material". But when he comes to labour he does not like to say that. Here he has simply given some cold figures like a mathematician or an arithmetician and says that there has been 60 per cent. more workers but 6 per cent. more production only. Yes, I will not follow his footsteps. I will request my labour leaders, my friends like Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee and Sri Debendra Nath Sen to see that the labourers do not follow the go slow

tactics. For two causes the production is less. One is the question of malnutrition and their living condition and the second is the "go slow tactics". I know that the Communists are behind this "go slow tactics" but our labour leaders are trying their best to follow the ideal of the Congress and I appeal to them not to think what the capitalists are doing. Let us do our part well, and the capitalists also should do what is just and proper towards labour. If this malnutrition continues, I tell you, progressively the situation will deteriorate to such an extent that production will be minus only. You cannot keep labour contented in this way. I appeal to you in the name of humanity to give labour a fair deal and justice.

Then the Finance Minister says about the profit motive, that the capitalists will have no incentive without the profit motive whereas Sardar Patel says, "Grow more, eat less". Is this the psychology behind the profit motive? Grow more and eat less. Why? Because you are to grow more in the interest of the Nation. Everyone of us must work in the interest of the Nation, the capitalists, the Ministers, the legislators, the labourers and everybody, but if we bring the profit motive and if the profit motive enters the minds of the capitalists, the labourers, the peasants, and the Congress organisation and the Congress workers I can only visualise woe to this country. It is only when we begin to work in the interest of the Nation even at personal sacrifices can the country prosper. Everyone must feel that he is an integral part of the country. A peasant who produces food must give food to the whole country even at the sacrifice of his own food; otherwise there is no hope for this country. That is the psychology we must try to create. I am sure there are some intelligent capitalists at least who understand this and if the government try to create this psychology I am sure the capitalists also will follow that and our young men are a fine lot who will also follow it. Bengal is reputed to be a country full of emotion. I admire them for that and I do hope there will be sufficient emotion in our countrymen to bring about that ideology which is the ideology of the Congress. The capitalists may not like it today but let me tell them as their friend that they must change their outlook. Nalini Babu has said that we must change our outlook but the question is which way round. The question is whether we should try to give a minimum balanced diet to everybody, whether we should try to give proper living conditions to everybody and the answer is an emphatic Yes. Otherwise there is no hope for this country and people will not listen to us. I may tell you that if we fail to read the signs on the wall we may do so at our peril. He has also referred to Krishak-Mazdoor Raj. He has told us, "We are working on the foundation of Krishak-Mazdoor Raj". Without going into the details all that I do want to say is that we are a thousand miles away from Krishak-Mazdoor Raj; we are nowhere near it and unless we follow the ideology of Gandhiji which is based on non-violence and truth and non-violent socialism, unless we follow that I can assure you this country will have communism. If you want to avoid communism you must have that non-violent socialism. There is no other way. Already we see signs of violent communist activities in Midnapore, in Howrah, in Hooghly and 24-Parganas. Of course if you take them one by one it may not be big. But I tell you these are bad signs, and an administrator cannot afford to ignore it and unless we take sincerely to this side of the thing, i.e., non-violent socialism, there is no hope for this country. If we ignore it whether we are Congressmen or whether we are non-Congressmen we shall all be deluded and there will be a huge deluge and all will be submerged in that. That is what I have got to say and I appeal to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to consider what I have said.

Then I come to the objective reality, i.e., the budget proper. I see in it one good thing and that is that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has not included the receipts from the proposed sales tax and other things in the budget proper and I think, knowing little about human psychology, that

probably he is not serious about having this tax and I shall be glad and the Nation will be more glad than myself if he does not bring it in the final analysis and I say he has not also made a clear case for new taxation. You will see from the estimated figures for 1948-49 that the revenue receipt was placed at 3,118 lakhs and expenditure at 3,196 lakhs, the deficit anticipated being 77 lakhs and odd whereas according to the revised estimate the deficit or the difference stood at only 23 lakhs and that too after paying one crore to Pakistan. Otherwise there would have been a surplus of about 76 lakhs. So there is a lot of difference between the original estimate and the revised estimate. Of course I have some little experience as an Administrator whereas Nalini Babu has got more experience. I know every Minister is anxious to include large amounts in his portfolio. What happens is this that lump sums are given without even going into the details of schemes for which they are meant and without any regard to priorities and when there is demand from all Ministers the Finance Minister sometimes finds himself in a hopeless position. So I do hope that he will consider all these things and take up things in an order of priority and he will give a properly balanced budget without any taxation also if possible.

Another thing that I should suggest to him is that there should be a retrenchment committee as the Government of India has appointed a retrenchment committee of its own. It has been said in this House that on account of the shrinkage of our province, we have suffered much. I want to tell you we have not suffered on account of the partition: rather we have gained much. Let us be frank about it. It is well known that while we have got only 36 per cent. of the population, we have got 70 per cent. of the total revenue of undivided Bengal. Therefore, it is really very regrettable that we could not have a more balanced budget. I should like to point out to the Finance Minister and to the Premier who is in charge of the Home Department that while the police expenditure was 4,71 lakhs for undivided Bengal, the estimated expenditure for West Bengal for the year 1948-49 was 3,66 lakhs and now it is proposed to raise it to 4,61 lakhs, the difference being about a crore. I think there is room for enough shrinkage there. I do say, Sir, there is enough scope for retrenchment in the Secretariat which has expanded like anything and has become as elastic as rubber. I do believe that many officers are as patriotic as we are, and they will, I am sure, respond to the call of the country when they find that the only way to meet their high salaries is to tax the poor man's mustard oil, match-box, coal and fuel, and will not grudge to accept lesser salary. Then, Sir, our capitalist friends will listen to our advice. Even in a capitalist society an unhealthy man or an uneducated man is a liability to him and to the nation, and today they represent the vast proportion of India's population. Therefore whatever we may do for the rich few, we shall never be able to save them, unless the rich come forward to their help, and the ultimate effect of that would be anarchy and chaos in the land——(Janab Abul Hashem: What about the Central Budget?) That is not a subject for discussion here in this House: otherwise, I would have discussed it. Mr. Hashem should know that our mind should be preoccupied with our own affairs rather than with somebody else's matter. Now, with regard to the highly paid officers of Government I should like to make a concrete suggestion. To Secretaries I would give their grade pay *plus* Rs. 250 as allowance, to Deputy Secretaries I would give them their grade pay *plus* Rs. 150 as allowance and I hope they will accept the same, and similar reduction in allowance should be made in the case of other Secretariat officers——(Shaik Mohamad Rafique: What about the Ministers?) So far as Ministers are concerned the Premier draws in all Rs. 1,500 and the other Ministers Rs. 1,250, and those are not, I think, big sums. I hope Mr. Rafique will agree with me in this matter, and should not bother about their salary. With regard to this retrenchment everything should be done by keeping in view the sense of the party supporting the

Government, and whatever I have said now is in the spirit of a friend and as an integral part of our organisation. And I hope all my friends who are Ministers and all my friends who are officers of the country will look at this question from that angle of vision. I do know there are certain officers, there are some even amongst the much accursed I. C. S. officers who once came to me and voluntarily offered to reduce their salary by Rs. 250 per month if I should so desire. In this connection I would like to mention specifically the case of an officer who was offered an additional salary of Rs. 800 or so by the Government of India, but when I told him that in the interest of West Bengal Government I should like to retain him, he gladly told me that if I wanted him, he would remain here and forego the higher salary offered. So there are patriotic men amongst our officers as well as there are patriotic men amongst legislators, amongst capitalists and others. If we can develop a proper psychology in the minds of our citizens, they will gladly work for twelve hours a day for the good of their country. Sir, I may tell you that just after the first world war an officer who belonged to Canada told me that the Germans were working twelve hours a day in the post-war period but were taking less pay than before when they had to work only eight hours a day. Sir, that was really patriotic of them to do so. Several years ago I met Sir Lalubhai Samaldas and he presented to me a picture of Japan. We had a discussion about the industrial condition of Japan and I will tell you what he said. He had a talk with a Japanese girl working in a mill and asked her how she was satisfied with so small a wage. The girl replied that unless she did so, prices of commodities produced in Japan would go up and would not find market in other countries. So she must take less in the interest of her country. Sir, we must educate every countryman of ours in that way, and if we Congressmen can do it, if the Congress administrators can do it, then we will be able to advance the cause of our country. On the contrary with the help of the police alone we will never be able to retain our power. If the activities of the police have the support of the majority of our people, then alone they can be of help to us. We should try to cultivate that psychology. But if we depend entirely on the police and if things go on as usual, then I am afraid it will be difficult to have that psychological effect. I have nothing more to say and with these words I make an appeal to Government for a move in the right direction.

Mr. JASIMUDDIN AHMED: মাননীয় Deputy Speaker, বাজেট পর্য্যালোচনায় বেশী কিছু বলবার নাই। তবে জাতি গঠনমূলক কার্য্যের কোন ব্যবস্থা বাজেটের মধ্যে আছে বলে মনে হয় না। যাহা আছে তাহা সামান্য সামান্য এদিক ওদিক ছিটে ফোঁটার মত। কিন্তু সেই সমস্ত কাজ যতক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত ভাল করে না হয়, ততক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত দেশের উন্নতি হতে পারে না। আমার বিশ্বাস গভর্ণমেণ্টের তরফে জাতি গঠন করবার কোন একটি নির্দ্দিষ্ট পরিকল্পনা নাই। সময়ে সময়ে বলা হয় বটে যে গঠনমূলক কাজের দিকে আমাদের সকলের এগিয়ে যাওয়া উচিৎ, কিন্তু গঠনমূলক কার্য্যের যদি পরিকল্পনা না থাকে তবে আমাদের পক্ষে তাতে যোগ দেওয়া বড়ই অসম্ভব। আমরা বুঝতে পারি না, যে কি কাজে আমরা গভর্ণমেণ্টের সহায়তা করবো; কেমন করে জাতি গঠনমূলক কাজে তাঁদের সহায়তা করবো। পরিকল্পনা যদি আমাদের সামনে না থাকে তাহলে কাজে যোগ দেওয়া সম্ভব নয়। একটী পরিকল্পনা হওয়া দরকার। আমাদের দেশের মধ্যে যে সকল জিনিষের চাহিদা আছে সেই সকলের উৎপাদনের পরিকল্পনাও কিছু আজ পর্য্যন্ত হয়নি। যা কিছু চাষী উৎপাদন করে সেটা বেঁটে দেওয়ার জন্য Civil Supplies Department জবরদস্তির সহিত এর কাছ থেকে ওর কাছ থেকে কেড়ে আনে। যে চাষীরা উৎপাদন করে, তারাই উৎপীড়িত হয়। আমাদের দেশে সুন্দরবন অঞ্চলটার চাষীরা ধান বেশী করে উৎপন্ন করে। সেই সুন্দরবন অঞ্চলটা ঘিরে রাখা হয়েছে। একদিন না দুদিন না আজ কয়েক বৎসর ঘিরে cordon করা হয়েছে। বছরের পর বছর আজ ৫।৬ বছর ধরে এই সব অঞ্চলের চতুর্দ্দিক ঘেরা। তাদের কাছ থেকে ধান চাল কিনে নেওয়া হয়েছে ৬৲ টাকা ৭৲ টাকার দরে; আর অন্যান্য অ যে যারা চাষ বেশী কিছু করে না, তারা বেশী দামে বিক্রী করতে পারে। চাষ করা যদি অপরাধ হয়, তাহলে চাষ করতে কেউ যাবে না। সে জন্য সুন্দরবন অঞ্চলে আগে যে পরিমাণে চাষ হতো, এখন কখন তার চেয়ে কমে গিয়েছে; কারণ চাষীরা জানে যে তারা যতই চাষ করুক না কেন ঐ দামের

চেয়ে বেশী কিছু লাভ পাবে না; সরকার থেকে তাদের ধান চাল কেড়ে নিয়ে যাবে। আমি প্রস্তাব করি যে, Civil Supplies Department যে অঞ্চল ঘিরে রেখেছেন, cordon করে রেখেছেন, তারা যেন বারো মাস ঘিরে না রাখেন। বৎসরের যে সময় ফসল হয় সেই সময় যদি ২।৩ মাস ধরে কিছুটা কিনে নেন, তাহলে চাষীদের অসুবিধাটা কমে যায়। যদি কলকাতার লোকদের জন্য, অথবা যেখানে শিল্প অঞ্চল তাদের জন্য সংগ্রহ করতে হয়, তাহলে তাদের জন্য যেমন দাম কমানো দরকার আছে, তেমনি গ্রাম অঞ্চলে যেখানে চাষী লোকেরা বাস করে, যাদের কাছ থেকে চাষের জিনিষ কেড়ে আনা হয়, তাদেরও যে সমস্ত জিনিষের দরকার আছে সেগুলি কম দামে দেওয়া উচিৎ। কলকাতার লোকেরা তেল কিনবে দেড় টাকা, দু টাকা, আর চাষীরা সেখানে তেল কিনবে আড়াই টাকা তিন টাকা; এ অন্যায়। আমার বিশ্বাস যে চাষীদের যে সমস্ত অঞ্চল ঘিরে রাখা হয়েছে সেই সব অঞ্চল বারো মাস না ঘিরে রেখে বৎসরের কতিপয় মাস, যদি প্রয়োজন হয় ত করা উচিৎ। আর সবচেয়ে ভাল হয় যদি Civil Supplies একেবারে উঠিয়ে দেওয়া হয়। Civil Suppliesএর মত অপদার্থ জিনিষ আর এ দেশে চলে না। স্বাধীন হয়েছি সত্য কিন্তু স্বাধীন হয়েছি কোথায়? যদি প্রত্যেকটা দেশালাইয়ে tax, তামাকেও tax, পানেও tax, যদি চলা ফেরা, চাষ বাস করা, তার প্রত্যেকটিতে বাঁধন করা থাকে আমাদের যদি স্বাধীনভাবে উৎপাদন করা, নেওয়া দেওয়া না থাকে, তাহলে আমাদের স্বাধীনতা কোথায়? আপনারা এখানে Psychology, Philosophy, মনবিজ্ঞান, যতই আওড়ান না কেন, কিন্তু দেশের সাধারণ লোক তাদের এইরূপ লড়াইয়ের সময় আমরা কষ্ট পেয়েছি, ইংরাজ ছিল এবং বিদেশী শাসন ছিল বলিয়া। আমরা এখন স্বাধীন হয়েছি কিন্তু কই আমরা স্বাধীনভাবে ত কেনা বেচা করতে পারি না? তাঁরা এতগুলি বিজ্ঞান, দর্শন বোঝে না, তারা বোঝে তাদের নিত্যপ্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষ পাওয়া। তাতে যখন তাদের বাঁধন-কষণ দেখে তখন তাদের মনটা বিচলিত হয়ে উঠে। সেই বিচলনকে যদি Communism বলেন ত তাই হয়ে উঠছে, আর যদি আর কিছু বলেন ত তাই। চাষী অঞ্চলে সাধারণের ব্যবহারের জিনিষের প্রত্যেকটির দাম কলকাতার চেয়ে বেশী। কাপড়ের দাম তেলের দাম, সমস্তই কলকাতার দামের চেয়ে বেশী। চাষ করাটা যেন তাদের অপরাধ হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে। যতই চাষ করছে ততই তাদের জিনিষের পাওনাটা কমে আসছে। কাপড়ের সম্বন্ধে এই যে Civil Supplies থেকে বাঁধন-কষণ করেছে, কাপড়ের আইন করেছে, এই আইনের অমুক লাইনের অমুক পারায় অমুক clauseএ ৪২ টাকির অমুক দাম, ইত্যাদি এই সব আইন কানুন দেশের লোকের পক্ষে বোঝা শক্ত। এ সব আইন কানুন পুলিশ পাহারায় Enforcement ইত্যাদির লোকদের সুবিধা হচ্ছে লোকদের উপর অত্যাচার করবার। কারণ তারা ত এত আইন জানে না, বাজারে '৪৬ সালের কাপড় উঠেছে কি '৪৭ সালের উঠেছে, অমক হয়েছে কি তমুক হয়েছে তার কিছুই জানে না। তাদের জানার কথা দূরে থাকুক Civil Suppliesএর যারা আসল লোক, যারা বড় বড় ডাঁসরেল অফিসার অথবা Enforcementএর পুলিশ পাহারার ভাল ভাল লোক, তারাই জানে না যে কখন কোন্ আইন হচ্ছে বা বদলাচ্ছে। অনেক জিনিষ seize করা হয়, freeze করা হয়, ধরা হয়, পাকড়ান হয় কিন্তু কোর্টে গিয়ে ২ মাস ৬ মাস লোকদের ঘুরিয়ে, অত্যাচার করে, জব্দ করে হাজতে পুরে, টাকা কড়ি আদায় করে, শেষে কিছুই হয় না। হাকিমেরা যখন বিচার করেন অধিকাংশ ক্ষেত্রে দেখা যায় অর্থাৎ বারো আনা ক্ষেত্রে দেখা যায় যে আইনেতে মোকদ্দমা টিকে না। আইনেতে না টেকার কারণ, যারা আইন চালান, আইনের ব্যবহার করেন, তারাই আইন বোঝেন না। আমি বলতে পারি যে Civil Supplies Departmentএ খুব কম লোকই আছেন যাঁরা সম্পূর্ণ নিয়ম কানুন জানেন, আবার মনে হয় ছয়জন লোক আছেন কিনা যাঁরা Civil Suppliesএর প্রত্যেক আইনটা জানেন। এই সব আইনের বাঁধন-কষণ দেশের লোকদের অসহ্য হয়ে পড়েছে। সেজন্য বলি Civil Suppliesএর প্রয়োজন নাই। Civil Supplies থেকে নুন উঠে গিয়েছে তাতে কি নুনের অভাব হয়েছে? হয় নাই। একথা বলা হচ্ছে যে কাপড়টা তুলে দিয়ে বড় গোলমাল হয়েছে। কাপড়টা তুলে দেওয়া হয়নি, তুলে দেওয়া হয়েছে নামে, কিন্তু তার movement, procurement ইত্যাদি সব বাঁধন বাহাল করা ছিল। যদি কাপড়টা সম্পূর্ণ ভাবে তুলে দেওয়া হ'তো--আগা গোড়া movement ইত্যাদি সমস্ত-তাহলে লোকের এত কষ্ট হতো না। Civil Supplies এর ঘর পাকড়ের খবর কাগজে দেখি--কখনও ৬ হাজার গাঁট কখন ৫ হাজার গাঁট ইত্যাদি; এ যেমন Sanitary Inspectorএর দ্বারায় দোকানেতে তেল ধরা হয়। আসলে চেষ্টা করা হয় না যে তার source কোথায়। Civil Supplies থেকে বলা হচ্ছে,—অমুক হচ্ছে তমুক হচ্ছে কিন্তু আমরা public জানি না যে তাদের sourceএ গিয়ে আঘাত করা হয়েছে কি না। যতক্ষণ না প্রত্যেক জিনিষের sourceএ গিয়ে আঘাত হবে ততক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত ফল হবে না। স্বাধীন দেশ হয়েছে, স্বাধীনতা পেয়েছি, সব রকমভাবেই স্বাধীনভাবে চলা ফেরা করা দরকার। এখন Civil Supplies থাকলে চলবে না। এতদিন ধরে, গত ৫ বছর, ৭ বছর দেশ খাদ্য যোগাড় করতে পারেনি। আজ ৫।৭ বছর হ'লো তাঁরা কি যোগাড় করেছেন? অন্ততঃ

উৎপাদনের কি করেছেন। Government দেশের লোকের সাহায্য যদি চান দেশের লোক সাহায্য করতে প্রস্তুত। আমরা ১৫।২০ জন লোক এদিকে বসে থাকি, কেউ ত জিজ্ঞাসা করে না তোমরা কেন বসে আছো? যদি আমরা কংগ্রেসের সুখ্যাতি করি তাহলে বলবে "ভূতের মুখে রাম নাম,"--আমাদের নীহারেন্দু দত্ত মজুমদার মহাশয়, আমাদের ভূপতি খালি-মুজমদার মহাশয়, ভ্রূকুটি করবেন। আমাদের উভয় সঙ্কট।

Mr. J. R. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity of congratulating the Hon'ble Finance Minister on his forthright championship of the cause of capital and commercial enterprise and also for his unqualified recognition of the need for a revival of confidence and increased production for the benefit and welfare of the Province and the country as a whole. I would also like to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister on the dexterity with which he has applied his wide experience to produce a budget with a deficit of a very much smaller order than was recently anticipated. It is not necessary for me to emphasise the need for cautious realism at the present time. The accumulated deficit on the revenue account at the end of the current year is budgeted to be appreciably enhanced by the close of 1950. During next year our revenue expenditure is estimated to exceed our revenue receipts by something more than a crore. At the same time I would like to point out that against this deficit it must be recognised that existing revenue earners may in all probability show a lesser return during the coming year than in the year just past. The decreasing purchasing power of the population as a whole will probably mean a fall in consumption and consequently less revenue from indirect taxation. For example, Customs receipts in spite of increases in the Central Duty may well on the present trend of imports show a decline and the Province's share of the Centre's distribution will accordingly be reduced. The new Budget of the Centre gives certain relief under the heads of Income Tax and Super Tax on certain grades and although the relief given is not great the total return on this form of revenue may fall affecting also the provincial allotment. Provincial Excise, one of the important sources of revenue for the Province, is beginning to show signs of the operation of the law of diminishing returns and in spite of an extension in the scope of this Duty a fall in receipts may need to be anticipated by the end of this year. It is therefore noted with satisfaction that the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his wisdom has made allowances for falling off under certain heads. This danger in the future is such as to merit emphasis and is a situation which needs to be kept constantly in mind in view of the long term prospects. It is therefore wise to temper at this stage with a draught of long term realism the understandable satisfaction that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has been able to reduce the Budget deficit to reasonable proportions.

With regard to Debt heads, I would like to draw attention to the heavy burden of Debt liability which the Province is proposing to incur during the ensuing year. The receipts under this provision, which being debts are presumably subject to repayment, are nearly three times that for revenue. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has estimated that our liabilities to the Central Government will rise from Rs. 9 crores to Rs. 25 crores during the coming year. This is a very serious commitment indeed. We therefore welcome the assurance of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that the majority of this expenditure will go on productive projects from which revenue can be derived. It should not be overlooked, however, by the members of the House that at a later stage in his Budget Speech the Hon'ble Finance Minister issued a warning that at the moment we are receiving considerable assistance from the Central Government for Development Schemes which are largely unproductive and which in a few years may well become a direct burden both for maintenance and further extension on Provincial revenues. I hope therefore that productive schemes on which debts to the tune of Rs. 25 crores are projected will by that date be partially at least in operation to assist the extra burden of unproductive

schemes on the Province's finance. At the same time it is to be recognised that as a result of these difficult times, progress on these schemes must necessarily be slow but it is hoped in the words of a famous statesman that the relief they will afford will not be too little or too late.

A direction in which development is vitally necessary for the economic welfare of the Province, I regret to note, does not find reference in the Hon'ble Finance Minister's speech. I know that he had a great deal of ground to cover but this subject is so vital and fundamental to West Bengal's prosperity that I crave the indulgence of the House for referring to it once again. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has given no indication of the policy intended with regard to the promotion of jute cultivation. I make bold to say that if West Bengal is to prosper, the paramount need of home production of this raw material must be fully recognised. No one who has studied the subject will deny that the prosperity of Calcutta is to a major extent based on her jute industry and in West Bengal equally, as a largely industrial province, it is vital to the economic structure. The Government of India, both for foreign currency earning and for internal revenue both directly and in numerous indirect ways, relies on Calcutta's prosperity and its basic jute industry. Today there is ample evidence that East Bengal seeks other avenues of disposal for her jute crop and the traditional supply to the Calcutta mills may in time be seriously reduced. Moreover, crop prices are high and are further enhanced by Jute Export Duty, making competitive sale after processing difficult for the West Bengal manufacturer. Given the raw material at reasonable prices Calcutta can unquestionably hold her own. Starve her of raw material and there is nothing she can do; while scores of now busy employees will become an unproductive burden on the State, the wheels of commerce and trade will be slowed down and a material contributor to India's continuing overseas wealth will be lost.

The immediate and understandable reply to a plea for increasing the area under jute is that this will endanger the essential needs of food production. I am sure that if a careful examination was made the jute crop in West Bengal could be materially increased without in any way affecting the production of foodstuffs. Given the will I am sure that West Bengal could produce something approaching 40 lakhs of bales even allowing for extended food crop demands. The estimated production for this season is approximately 21 lakhs bales. There is a lee-way to make up. On these figures I am sure the House will agree that there is room for expansion and that to make industrial West Bengal's major industry safe in raw materials is a policy which is not utterly and practically worthwhile.

Sri BEPIN BEHARI GANGULI: Sir, it is not possible to deal with all the questions mentioned in the budget but I will speak about some salient points. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have read with great concern the budget estimate of the Finance Minister in the first year after our Independence. It is a noteworthy fact that West Bengal Government's responsibility of governing us is interlinked with the Central Government's governing the whole of the Indian Union. It is not surprising that it is a businessman's budget in the same line as the Centre's assurances to the business community and advocacy for the maintenance of the vested interest is pervading in some parts of the budget. The tacit support of the capitalist system rules its whole structure. The rich shall remain rich and the poor shall remain poor.

The situation that West Bengal economy has reached is regarded as being one of those crucial stages in the process of history, where if progress along a certain line of development is to be made with any rapidity at all, it has to be made under the impetus of an initial rush; where the inertia forces that have accumulated and crystallised over a whole preceding epoch of history have to be overborne by the momentum of a sudden move, if they

are not to retard and deflect the course of movement over several years where the process of sapping an infiltration must give way before the simultaneous and abrupt assault. It must be conceived in terms very similar to military stategy with its single minded concentration on a strategic objective, on a crucial timing and a crucial line of thrust. In such a situation the rules and habits of normal continuity in development are rudely broken. It is then that our country must have to stake all to beat the clock and to take risks which will seem to defy the dictates of reason. We may feel, however, what the onlooker at the time may not have seen unreasoning lack of caution in retrospect to be appreciated as one of those acts of faith and courage without which history is not made.

In the light of the above process the budget of the Hon'ble Nalini Ranjan Sarker has not been conceived. It will seem to a casual observer that our Government is top heavy. It should have found ways of curtailing expenditure. With less love for the rich our Finance Minister might find enough alternatives to balance his budget. We are surprised that the biggest allotment in the individual items of expenditure has gone to the Police. The allotment on Police next year surpasses that on Education which is only Re. 1 per capita. The Police will spend Rs. 4·62 lakhs of the revenue whereas Education will have only Rs. 2·94 lakhs to spend. In the item for resettlement of refugees from Eastern Bengal the money sanctioned is far less than the requirement. Only Rs. 4·28 lakhs is quite meagre and insufficient to cope with the vast number of persons who have crossed over to West Bengal. It represents less than Rs. 30 per head. A cursory view at the budget shows that pomp and glamour is not lacking. A poor province like ours will spend six lakhs of rupees on the Governor, his establishment and travelling. Besides he has 3 Aides-de-camp, 11 clerks and 31 servants.

In spite of the fact that the Government may have had a vigil on the departments, nepotism, bribery and corruption persists among some of the officers and their men. Everybody knows that the Civil Supply administration of the Government is not finding time to remove corruption. In the Bengal Government Press the top-heavy organisation has its own tale to tell. I had attracted the attention of some of the Ministers about corrupt practices running rampant there. I had asked them to appoint an enquiry committee to go through the acts of large scale corruption but to no purpose. I give below the surcharge on the Exchequer of our Government regarding overtime only:—

1944-45	...	15,189
1945-46	...	43,060
1946-47	...	1,14,888
1948-49	...	3,25,000

Government has not yet taken care to reform the cinemas which are the hotbed of mockery and corruptibility in regard to the impressionable youths. There are dens of gambling on open thoroughfares and the Police are not doing anything to remove them. This Government which we have achieved by ceaseless fight is still unable to curtail expenditure of big officials whose existence hails from decades past. A Settlement Officer of the Land and Land Revenue gets not only his big salary but various other emoluments also. Instances can be multiplied.

Man is the creature of economy but economy is not the creature of man. Rich shall remain rich and poor shall remain poor is not an idea which the common man will tolerate. All inflation to exploit the masses should stop at once. One word about the sales tax. The method applied for wiping out deficit is unenviable to the lot of the common man—the peasantry and workmen. Several times a day the people of the province would be

reminded of the common necessaries of life in the shape of sales tax of wood, fuel, coal, medicines and newspapers. This sort of taxation could have been levied on advertisements such as we find on roadsides and railway stations or on big mansions and factories. But no such thing was contemplated. Taxations on electricity have been doubled which tells upon capacity of citizens of Calcutta to pay.

With regard to development schemes of the Damodar and Mor and other schemes we shall wait and see how they are carried on. We know that until the Volga in the Ukraine region was developed the Russian population would have suffered as much as we are still suffering with scarcity of rice and wheat.

It is the order of the day that factory owners are bent upon victimizing the workers and retrenchment and involuntary leave or lay off, they say, is their inherent right. The Labour Department are unable to meet the exigencies and trade disputes. The workers and the peasantry are suffering from the onslaughts of the owners of factories and lands. Present legislation is not able to cope with this emergency. The Government should be strong now to save the common man.

Janab SYED BADRUDDOJA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the ceaseless flow of oratory for the last three or four days honourable members in this House have given a lucid, clear and at times brilliant exposition of the various aspects of the financial statement presented before the House by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for the year 1949-50. Mine would be a very great disadvantage indeed, since most of the arguments and points that I will urge have already been anticipated. But, Sir, I have the additional advantage of having the Central Budget before me. There seems to be a family likeness in the budgets presented by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, Dr. John Mathai, at the Centre and our Finance Minister of the Province of West Bengal — (Janab ABUL HASHEM: Hear! Hear!) Janab Abul Hashem was just referring to capitalist outlook in the budget statement of our Finance Minister. I would swear by the theory of inter-dependence of economic factors that our Finance Minister has himself propounded and would make an apology for referring to the budget presented at the Centre with which our destinies are, after all, linked up; we have always to refer to the Centre with regard to the unfair allocation under the Niemeyer Award and the still more unfair allocation by the present Government at the Centre. In the Budget of the Centre the same psychology permeates as here. The tendency both in West Bengal as also at the Centre is to subordinate the interest of millions of people, 99 per cent. of the people, the poor, to the supreme demand of 1 per cent. of the people, the rich. Lest I might be misunderstood, I would refer to the attempts of the Centre for providing facilities and encouragement to capital in the shape of withdrawal of excess profits tax, in the shape of an offer of a lower maximum rate of income-tax and super-tax and deriving the bulk of the revenue to wipe out the deficit of 15 crores from the poor man's purse: the poor man has now to pay more for his sugar: the poor man has now to pay more for every essential in life. Similarly in Bengal the Finance Minister has thought of imposing additional rates of sales tax on mustard oil and other essentials of life like coal and firewood. Sir, I feel that our Finance Minister cannot speak and act otherwise. Although I have got a great admiration for his sound knowledge of economics in all its bearings and implications, although I know he is a gentleman marked for sobriety of judgment, I cannot at the same time forget the fact that he represents a particular interest, though he poses to represent the voiceless millions of Bengal—a particular interest whose needs and requirements he can never forget nor ignore. That interest is the interest of capital. His interest for capital, his extreme solicitude for capital's welfare, his tendency to accommodate capital at the cost of labour is clearly evident in his Budget

Speech. His fling at labour, making labour responsible for every decline in production has however been amply answered by the brilliant speech of my esteemed friend, Sri D. N. Sen. So I would not labour that point any further, but I marvel at the sound judgment of our Finance Minister when I find that he condemns labour although there is such a great disparity in the standard of life of the poor and that of the rich; whether we admire our Finance Minister's level of thought, whether we wonder at his careful handling of difficult economic issues and tactful marshalling of facts, whether we shudder at the squalid miseries of the poor and surfeit and plenty of the rich, the Hon'ble Finance Minister would present us with cold logic of facts and urge a rational and realistic approach to the life and death question of far-reaching significance for the vast millions of the people who knock about for a morsel of food. Sir, the Finance Minister bears an impress of a business magnate: he reveals a psychology and a complex frame of mind which is obsessed with one consideration—that of capital alone. Just a moment ago Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, our Premier, was expatiating on our co-operation, our support and active participation in the endeavours of Government to restore peaceful conditions so that our combined efforts might contribute to the stability of the entire province. Sir, we are prepared to co-operate with Government in every possible way but Government must also try to find out the root cause of all these troubles, of the forces of disruption and revolution that are operating behind the scene. Why is it, Sir, that the forces of disruption are so rampant, why is it that we hear the rumblings of thunder nearer home?—there must be some maladjustment, some maladministration, something wrong, something rotten in the State of Denmark. Otherwise, it is not for nothing that people revolt and cry and resent the injustices and tyrannies, the tortures that are perpetrated in broad daylight upon them. It is not by shootings, by firings, tear-gassing and *lathi*-charging, it is not by the issue of Ordinances, Security Acts and other repressive measures that you can suppress the people.

Sir, we the Muslims of India have no school of thought at the present moment: we do not belong to any school to-day. As Muslims we feel we have no quarters, no shelter: we feel that we have been effaced from the political life of India for the time being. We do no longer remain in the picture at all. We are not in a position yet to recover our lost ground and to contribute to the progressive development of our country. At the present moment it is not, therefore, in that frame of mind that I criticize the policy of the Finance Minister but only to show that the forces that are operating are sufficient indication of the fact that the Government are not alive to the situation. Sir, Government are not careful enough to go deep into the trend of affairs in combating the forces that are working underground in the country and to watch the currents and cross-currents beneath the serene surface.

Now, Sir, I would not be dogmatic enough not to refer to some of the provisions that have been made by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister under the various heads of Medical, Education, Public Health, Irrigation and Agriculture. Referring to the last item first, may I remind the Finance Minister that in this House during the last ten years, with a brief interlude only, I have examined the provisions under the sub-head "Grow More Food" and today also I find that in the budget for 1948-49, Rs. 1,65,43,000 was provided under "Grow More Food" campaign, but out of this sum about fifty-five lakhs could not be utilised, because long-term grow-more-food programmes had to be abandoned just to avoid inflationary spiral. That has been the position throughout. We have provided enough money, but we have not grown food but thistles and thorns. There has been no improvement; on the other hand there has been deterioration all along the line. Yet provisions have been made to the tune of crores of rupees to maintain huge establishments and huge sums of money have been simply wasted without

effecting any improvement at all. Sir, Mr. Bhandari was yesterday referring to the four-fold programme of Mahatma Gandhi—abolition of untouchability, Hindu-Muslim unity, revival of cottage industries and prohibition. As a follower of the Great Prophet I am very much concerned with the last item. He alone amongst all the great teachers of mankind realised the curses of gambling and drinking and eradicated those evils from human society.

The question of untouchability has not been yet touched. So far as the Hindu-Muslim question is concerned, the less said the better.

I am coming to the provision under the head "Police". In my own district about 2,500 bighas of land have been mown and destroyed and the cattle of the local *goalas* have been let loose on these fields. In broad daylight they have allowed their cattle to graze on the fields, thus spoiling all the crops. Summonses have been issued against them, warrants have been issued; but they have never been executed. This is the reign of law that is prevailing in the district. Police forces are there to execute the orders of the Magistracy, but they have defied the Magistracy. Yet under this Police head you have provided nothing short of 4 crores 61 lakhs. I will quote certain figures from the Budget of 1942-43, the year of August Disturbances, to show that in that year in spite of the fact that revenue receipts were about 15 crores 69 lakhs and 79 thousand, provision under the head "Police" was only 2 crores 48 lakhs 62 thousand. Dr. P. C. Ghosh rightly pointed out today, even in the budget for 1947-48 just after communal disturbances and riots in Calcutta the provision under the head "Police" was about 4 crores 77 lakhs 83 thousands, whereas it is about 4 crores 61 lakhs in 1949-50 in the truncated province of West Bengal, one-third the area of United Bengal.

My esteemed friend the Hon'ble the Finance Minister in season and out of season has harped on the strain that in pursuance of the policy of the Government of India we have got to reduce our expenditure to the minimum, we have got to balance our budget with that end in view. He is out for reducing the expenditure. But what is the over-all picture? The over-all picture is that under almost every important head expenses are on the increase. As my esteemed friend Dr P. C. Ghosh has rightly pointed out, in the Secretariat in United Bengal, the total strength from Chief Secretary, Secretary down to Registrar, Special Officer, Additional Special Officer, was only 19; today the number is 31. If United Bengal could afford to do with a strength of 19, why cannot this truncated Bengal, this one-third of United Bengal, manage with one-third of that strength? Naturally, therefore, we feel very much hesitant, very much nervous when we see that the Government of Bengal are not quite consistent in their profession and practice, when they say that they are prepared to reduce the expenditure, but under the "Police," "General Administration" and many other important heads, the expenditure has been on the increase. The Government of India provided only 65 crores of rupees in the year 1948-49 for Defence, but in the year 1949-50 there has been a provision of only a modest sum of 123 crores out of a total revenue of 307 crores and odd. Sir, that is the position to which we have been reduced today.

The Hon'ble the Finance Minister has repeatedly urged upon the members of this House to co-operate with the Government. We are prepared to co-operate, but what is the real position? Why are you landing the country into disaster? Who told you to cry for partition? You talk of shrinkage of territory, you talk of refugee problem, of rehabilitation, you talk of reduction in agricultural resources and all that. But who was responsible for this position? Why did the leaders of public opinion, both Muslim and Hindu, cry for partition of India and thus created serious complications? Today, both the Government of Pakistan and the Government of India have got to cease fire in response to the behest of their masters. That shows that

even in the political sphere they are not today sufficiently free; they have got to carry out the behest of America and England. They are tied down to the apron string of Britain. They had been fighting like cats and dogs; they had been creating complications, they had been poisoning the springs of life, they had been vitiating and corrupting the atmosphere, they had been creating a situation most intolerable in the country. But as soon as orders came from Whitehall or U. N. O. they ceased fire. Was not public money and the blood of the public, of unfortunate Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs sufficiently precious, sufficiently sacred to weigh with the authorities in the land? The Hon'ble Finance Minister very rightly observed the other day that partition created enough troubles for us. Since after removal of capital from Calcutta to Delhi there had been an organised conspiracy against the talent, genius and manhood of Bengal and Indian leadership, both Hindu and Muslim, succeeded at last in partitioning the province of Bengal which has had a disastrous effect upon its cultural hegemony, political integrity, social and economic peace and prosperity. Muslim and Hindu young men have realised the great mistake. It is no use complaining against unfair treatment by the Government of India, it is no use complaining about the drop of 4 crores 87 lakhs of rupees under the Development Scheme, it is no use complaining that 62½ per cent. of your share of the export duty on jute and jute goods has been reduced only to 20 per cent., it is no use complaining that your share of income-tax has been reduced to 12 per cent. from 20 per cent. You have already landed yourself into disaster; you have already succumbed to the position; you have reduced yourself to these sore straits. It is no use crying over spilt milk now.

Janab A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, would it not be better if my friend finishes his speech after prayer?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is better that he finishes it now.

Janab SYED BADRUDDUJA: I cannot finish it now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are very much pressed for time and today there are numerous speakers. I cannot accommodate you any more.

Janab A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: I will request you to adjourn the House now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Badrudduja, I can give you two or three minutes after prayer.

(The House was then adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Janab SYED BADRUDDUJA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before recess I requested you to give me a few more minutes so that I might finish my speech. Sir, I was under the impression that you would grant me at least half an hour's time—the whole time taken together. I would, therefore, pray that you will kindly grant me a few more minutes so that I may finish my speech.

As I was remarking before, the budget provisions have got to be viewed as a whole—never to be treated piecemeal. I do not take a dogmatic view of the entire position. There are provisions in the budget under the heads Medical, Education, Agriculture and Irrigation. They are really salutary provisions and no sensible man would take any exception to these provisions. But somehow or other, owing to lack of any programme or policy, not today but for the last 10 or 12 years, we have not had the desired results. I would draw the pointed attention of the Ministry to this fact, because it is not for maintaining establishments, it is not for maintaining a huge army of officers alone, but simply to create conditions which can lead to the

prosperity, peace and progress of the nation, that enough money is provided in the budget year in and year out. If otherwise it would be a sheer waste not merely of public money but of human energy as well. When you are talking of balancing budgets, when you intend curtailing your expenditure, why is it that you are increasing your expenditure for Police and General Administration?

As I have already referred to, the Police consume a larger slice of our revenue, a larger portion of our revenue than any other head. But the Police have not done very well. Rainbow and the Police come after the storm is over. We have seen, Sir, as I have referred to before, that the Police, with a few honourable exceptions here and there, have not behaved well. Even during the communal riots we have seen the Police taking an active part in fomenting troubles. Thanks to Dr. P. C. Ghosh's intervention in having suspended some of these police officers during his regime in 1947, the situation in Calcutta could be brought under control in no time. More often than not we have found to our utter chagrin, to our great discomfiture that police forces have run amuck and very often taken the law into their own hands in the name of maintenance of law and order. Instances are very many, but I will not refer to those at the present moment. References will be made to them in due course when cut motions come up before the House for discussion. Sir, the soul of Mahatma Gandhi, that great Indian leader who freed India, must be in agonies at the present moment at the tragic scene which is being enacted on the socio-political stage of India. He talked of Hindu-Muslim unity; but no sample of that is to be found now. He talked of removal of untouchability; no sample of that can be seen. He talked of prohibition; nothing of the kind. He talked of progressive evolution of Indian society; nothing of the kind. He talked of socio-economic reconstruction of our society; nothing of the kind. He talked of removal of the burden of the poor; nothing can be seen at present. He talked of alleviating the condition of the poor; nothing of the kind. He talked of removal of the miseries of the poor; nothing is evident. The only tendency now is to placate, to pamper capital at the cost of the poor. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has, in a most indifferent manner, observed that the rich people number only one per cent. I wish the rich people numbered only half per cent. but even that half per cent.'s interest too has got to be sacrificed in the interest of the nation. There is scarcity of food, cloth and other essentials of life; prices of essential commodities are mounting up every day and the Finance Minister would ask the poor to hold their souls in patience and wait for better day. That has been the cry of the imperialists, the cry of the capitalists, the cry of the vested interests, the cry of the reactionaries throughout all ages in the world. But these people have not seen the signs on the walls and have not studied the forces that are operating in political arena, they have hastened the process of revolution that threatens disaster and destruction. Sir, we are here to stem the tide of discontent, we are here to stem the tide of despair, we are here to stem the tide of frustration, we are here to stem the tide of the forces of evil and destruction that are threatening the very existence of society. I would, therefore, appeal to Government in the name of that great Indian leader, in the name of posterity, in the name of Indian masses to rise to the height of the occasion and to shed this complex, this psychology, this mentality, this bias for capital, this urge for capital. In the name of all that is holy, in the name of all that is sublime, Government should reconstruct society on a sound socio-economic basis. Let minorities also feel in India that they have as much right as the majority in the constitution of India, in the administration of India.

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want more time to finish my speech. Sir, I have never been treated so shabbily in this House during the last ten

years. I repeatedly requested you to give me some more time. If you don't allow that, it is no use speaking. In the discussion of a budget which affects the destinies of millions of people, in the discussion of a budget which has got so many aspects—political, social and economic—it is no use rushing in this way. I would crave your indulgence, Sir, to give me more time, so that I can finish my speech.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can only give you two minutes' time. I am sorry I cannot give you more than that.

Janab SYED BADRUDDUJA: Sir, is it possible to finish within two minutes?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, I am helpless.

Janab SYED BADRUDDUJA: It is the privilege of the Oppositions only as also of members who sit on this side of the House to discuss matters threadbare, perchance they may make some constructive suggestions. However, Sir, I will obey your orders and finish my speech within a short time. Sir, I would appeal to the Hon'ble Members of the Cabinet to rise to the height of the occasion, I would appeal to the members of the House, as citizens of the State, as an integral part of the nation to realize their sacred responsibilities. I would appeal to the Government to inspire confidence in the public mind by their policy, by their programme, by their schemes of political and social reconstruction. It is no good shouting slogans, shibboleths and isms. It is by adjusting conflicting interests, by reconciling divergent claims, by raising the standard of poor people, by increasing the wages of poor workers and agriculturists, by improving the lot of poor men, by providing greater and greater facilities for educational, cultural, political, social and economic advancement of the people and not by hoodwinking them that confidence can be inspired. Unfortunately corruption, bribery, dirt and filth has today invaded the sphere of the administration from top to bottom. Sir, in the name of the people of India, in the name of that great leader that apostle of truth, we have got to purge India of all those evils that have gathered round her, so that the stream of life, the stream of justice and fairplay, the stream of humanity, the stream of democracy, the stream of truth and veracity might flow on in its pristine purity undisturbed by any parochial and narrow considerations.

Sri UDAY CHAND MAHTAB, Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to say a few words about the 1949-50 budget as presented to the House by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. The Finance Minister deserves our congratulation for his masterly analysis of the economic conditions of the province as put forward in his budget statement. Such an analysis is only possible from an expert financier and an astute businessman like him. He has uttered many unpalatable truths which a person with less courage of conviction would perhaps not have said. As one connected in a small way with business I cannot help but admire him for his point of view, for he has rightly pointed out that the motive of the budget is to prevent those businessmen and enterprises which may think that due to the present set-up of things it may be unwise to invest profits for the general good of the nation and for increasing the national wealth. As time is short I must now turn to the most important part of the whole thing, and that is the aspect of the budget which has drawn so much adverse criticism from all sections of the House. On the one hand although it may be desirable to encourage industrial expansion it is certainly much more desirable that the question of equitable distribution of wealth should be looked into. Looking through the budget as a humble citizen of free India one finds very little encouragement to improve the lot of the common man by giving him better facilities of housing, sanitation, education and medical facilities. In a free country like ours every person

has a right to benefit by attaining freedom, and as such even the poorest man has a right to demand the rights of levelling up of better conditions than he has been fortunate enough to have in the past. The imposition of sales tax on mustard oil, coal, matches and other necessities of life is a measure, I am afraid, which cannot receive commendation from any sensible person. If it was necessary for the Government to find money to balance the budget, I am sure much could have been done by trying to reduce the already top-heavy administration of this province of West Bengal and levying taxes on other commodities. I do not think I am wrong in saying, although I shall not go into figures as time at my disposal is short, that the administration charges of this province of ours is much more than what it was when Bengal was undivided. Should not the Ministry make a determined effort to cut down the heavy expenditure on General Administration, Civil Supplies, Police, etc.? For unless they do so, I am sure, they would find it very difficult to justify their existence in the eyes of the public. More agricultural improvement for production of food is necessary. The Damodar Valley Scheme is still in its embryo stage. It is necessary to resuscitate the dead and dying rivers of this province of ours. It is no doubt a redeeming feature that the poor refugees find some mention in the budget, but that is only touching the fringe of the problem for we must not forget that these poor homeless individuals belong to us and it is up to us to see that they live as human beings and not as goats and sheep. I am afraid, Sir, I could have said many other things. I only hope that our Government will take the criticisms in the spirit it is meant and do their utmost to improve rural conditions and give the masses the much needed amenities which have been out of their reach so far.

Sri J. C. GUPTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no one will envy the lot of the Hon'ble Finance Minister who has been sharply criticised from all sides. Times are out of joint and things are moving in a vicious circle and we recognise that it is very difficult to satisfy by a Budget acceptable to all. But most of the criticisms have been invited by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in trying to make a special pleading for resuscitation of the capitalist system of big industries. He has mentioned certain difficulties in their way. He has said capital is shy for various reasons, but he has omitted to mention one thing that industry in India is suffering because of the large withdrawal from banks by capitalists and rich men which has contracted the credit facilities granted by banks for the indigenous industries. That has been done for the purpose of tax evasion and that is one thing. I shall mention whatever constructive suggestions I may offer to him later.

Sir, I feel that his budget will ultimately materialise not as a deficit budget. Sir, we are all aware that Government has not been able in the past to spend the full amounts provided. I will give only one illustration. Let us take the question of rural health units. We have made provision under this head. My honourable friend Annada Babu pointed this out also and without repeating I may mention the system of approach in solving these matters, in putting into effect all these plans are wrong. What happens is this. Money is provided there. There is no question that in rural areas medical relief and health unit centres are urgently necessary, but what prevents us from achieving our object is, first of all, there is the question of selection of sites. Local subordinate officers go on sending reports which come on district level. There also some delays take place. Then the reports come to the Secretariat and then they go up to Ministers. Many months roll by and the health units are not established. Why is it not possible for the Director of Public Health to go to these localities, get the officers concerned there and settle then and there everything and start the health units. This is also another defect and this defect can be removed if the Health Minister himself could go to the places personally.

That would be excellent, because the files could be signed in the locality. This is how we have got to change our methods of work. Sitting in the Secretariat and rolling through files would not solve the problem. If that is remedied, I am sure the Budget will not materialise as a deficit budget.

Sir, I shall request the Finance Minister that before thinking of further taxation he should see that the tax evasion from the sales tax is stopped. I can assure you, Sir, that if steps were taken to stop the evasion of sales tax on that account alone you would have got more than Rs. 2 crores. You will find there is sales tax evasion by false declaration for registration and then disappearance, duplicate books, dilatory methods and inefficiency of the department. If the Hon'ble Finance Minister would look to that question first, I am sure, he would get an additional revenue to the extent of Rs. 2 crores and not have to tax the already taxed people. It is not good to put other burdens in a leaky boat of taxation; it will only increase the loss and the evasion.

I was just saying that the question of nationalisation *versus* private enterprise and the consequent uncertainty regarding the future of industries has to a certain extent discouraged big industrialists. In my opinion in the present situation neither private enterprise alone nor nationalisation is the only solution. The promotion of an industrial financial corporation by Government is indispensably necessary. It will furnish an adjustment between the two extreme alternatives of private control and nationalisation. With a Government guarantee of a minimum return and with a Board of Management consisting of efficient businessmen and experts collaborating with financial experts of the Government, necessary capital for developing the resources of the province will be forth coming. Such a finance corporation to help the existing industries which need help and honest supervision and for the development of the resources of the province and further the interest of the masses is needed today. Such a finance corporation will not, like private investors, look forward merely on larger profit but will promote and advance such industries as serve the national interests and supply our urgent needs even if the profit is comparatively small. Sooner the Government takes a step in this direction the better for all concerned.

The Industrial Directorate of the Government needs radical reorganisation and must not rest content with mere secretarial work which it mostly does at preesnt. The Directorate has hardly any contact with the various existing industries and keeps no information whether these are run efficiently or not or whether at all serve national interests distinct from sectional interests or the consumer rather than the producer.

The Directorate know little what are the difficulties and urgent needs of different industries as regards finance, equipment, expert guidance and efficient management.

Today India has to import food from outside at a very heavy cost, and we must develop our industries and export our goods. A good lead in this respect is available from the programme of the British Labour party. It declared each industry must have applied to it the test of national service. If it serves the nation, well and good. If it is inefficient and falls down on its job, the nation must see that things are put right. There are basic industries ripe for public ownership. There are other big industries not yet ripe for public ownership which must nevertheless be acquired by Construction Supervisor to further the national needs.

Sir Stafford Cripps as President of the Board of Trade quickly implemented this policy. He set up tripartite working committees to prepare plans for the reorganisation of each industry. The working committee consists of thirteen members—an independent Chairman, four representatives of the employers, four representatives of the workers, four independent

members, an engineer, a scientist, an economist and an efficiency expert. The Committee's main concern was to dictate to the Government how the efficiency of the industry could be raised.

Sir, I need not go further, but I say that the industries have to be developed from a new outlook and a new approach has got to be made to solve the difficulties not by trying to resuscitate what was the system in force.

Janab ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after listening to the statement of the Hon'ble the Premier, who is also the Home Minister, I was about to decide that I should not indulge either in any constructive or in destructive criticism. But then his predecessor led a sort of crusade against the Hon'ble Finance Minister and, to my utter surprise, both spoke in the name of the great political organisation which goes under the name of the Indian National Congress.

Sir, I have only one criticism to make against the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. He has evidently consulted half a dozen people in the preparation of his Financial Statement, with the result that out of 50 pages, 35 pages have been devoted to contradictory and opposing ideologies and "isms" and only 15 to the actual budget, to the actual income and expenditure of the province. Sir, I would go a bit further and say that if he had not consulted with and taken advice from those who go by the name of experts these days, I feel certain that he would have stuck to a point of view and an outlook that would have done some service to Bengal. A man of his business experience, a man who has been Finance Minister of Bengal before this, should not have allowed himself to be manoeuvred into a position where the impression left on the reader of his Financial Statement is that he is trying to silence many mouths by putting things into them so that they may not be enabled to speak. If he had stuck to his own economic theories, if he had stuck to his own decisions on the finances of Bengal, I feel certain that he would have made a Statement which would have convinced one and all, friend and critic alike, that he meant business. Sir, being as I am and believing in the theory that the division of a people or nation should not be on the basis of economics, I am glad the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has taken every aspect of our economic life into consideration. The rich becoming richer and the poor becoming poorer has been heard in the House for four days. I am sure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you and I have not heard more nonsensical piffle than that. I am saying this for the simple reason that imported theories and ideologies, coming from outside and foreign countries do not meet our requirements. Let us go ahead and do what is best for us. I know, Sir, that it is an unfortunate tendency in a caste-ridden nation to talk of democracy and even of communism and prate their political creeds and doctrines. But when we come to broad facts, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have got to advance all along the line. Do not make the rich poor, because by doing so it will not be possible to make the poor rich. The Persian saying is "خدا پنج انگشت یکسان نه کرد"—God did not make the five fingers all equal. Even if we look to conditions in the home of Communism, we shall have to come to the conclusion that there too all the five fingers are not equal. Quarrels between the employer and the employed, between the peasant and the landlord bring discord and strife. On the other hand, if everybody was allowed to go forward, every one was given an equal opportunity to do the best he could, I feel that we shall establish amity and concord; particularly at this time of our transition, where through inexperience and inefficiency, perhaps by not having had sufficient time to put our house in order, we may suffer if we adopted the ideologies and theories of people who do not belong to this country. We have got to build a home according to the material before us, and in doing so, so long as we do not crush one to better the other, I think we shall have made good progress.

A Government, Sir, in my view, must act, in matters of finance at least as a judge; to be a partisan in such matters would do nobody any good Honourable members of the House will very soon, in the near future, want money for education, money for sanitation, money for health, money for this and money for that. Where is the Hon'ble Finance Minister to get the money from? I have to join issue with him on one point more and that is that balancing a budget is not necessarily a miracle. The problem that he should have tackled is that, if necessary, to establish a balanced economy for Bengal, with all the drawbacks and defects that he has mentioned, he should have paid some attention to the question of borrowing money. He has taken pride over the fact that Bengal has no public debt and, at the same time, he has mentioned certain subventions from the Centre which may go into almost 25 crores by next year. I would most earnestly appeal to him that in order to fill the gap between the income and the expenditure, instead of adding to taxation, he could easily have borrowed money. Had he allowed his own views to prevail, I feel confident, he would have struck off many of the items in the budget which, on the very first reading of his Statement, appear to be unproductive and clearly are vote-catching devices. A Government has to do these things also, but in order to fill the gap to add to taxation, at a time when, let alone the poorest classes because they have always suffered even our lower middle classes and middle classes find it difficult to get their daily bread and a full mouthful, will not give the best results. Therefore, Sir, if, instead of throwing money in directions which will bring him no return, he had struck these items off the list, I am sure, if not a good budget and a balanced budget, there would not have been a deficit budget.

Sir, I am looking constantly at the clock as I am mortally afraid of the blue lamp.

People not obsessed with ideologies and "isms" which they do not understand—and I assert this with all the emphasis I can—are not in a position to criticize adversely the balanced views and the general aspect of the economic position of Bengal which the Hon'ble Finance Minister has taken. They do not stand anywhere near him. Their criticism is ill-informed and unreal. Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am prepared to give to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister a chance for a year longer and I hope and pray that next year when he presents a budget before us, he will tell us what is good for Bengal, but he will not repeat to us what other people say what is good for Bengal.

With these words, Sir, as I have said, I am prepared to support the general all-round view that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has taken because after having thrown away his bounties to certain sections of the population where they will all go down the family sink, he has tried to save the money-producing sections of the people—that is the capitalist and the labourer both combined together. Therefore, Sir, I wish him success and I wish Bengal better luck next year.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: In presenting his budget last year, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Finance Minister had said that he might permit himself to end on a cautiously confident note. I am not quite sure if a careful perusal of the budget he has just presented will justify that limited confidence. On the contrary, any serious student of the public finance of the province has cause for legitimate apprehension of the future unless, instead of merely enunciating our problems and difficulties, some positive policy is formulated and implemented to tackle them.

This year's budget statement has a peculiar characteristic. Although, or probably because, it is a fairly long one, the Finance Minister has devoted much more attention and space to a discussion of what he describes the "broader background of the economic and financial condition of the country as a whole" than to an examination of the economic and budgetary position

of this province. I wish, Sir, it were the other way round; for at least then we would not have experienced that heat that has been generated in this House. Further although prosperity or poverty may, as he suggests, be indivisible, it is a statement which is true only by and large and over longer periods. Its validity is not affected by the presence of plague-spots in an otherwise prosperous country. The poverty and financial plight of this province when placed in juxtaposition to the comparative prosperity of some other provinces will bear out the truth of my contention.

Coming to the budget, Sir, the first thing that I should like to draw your attention to is one on which honourable members have spoken at length in this House and that is the cost of administration. I do not want to repeat figures that have already been quoted, but I might add certain other facts. I may mention, for example, that the cost of establishment of the Civil Supplies Department, say, in provinces like Bombay, United Provinces or Madras is less than a crore whereas in West Bengal—a very much smaller province—it is more than 3 crores. It is really difficult to understand why there should be this large gap in expenditure. Then there appears to me to be certain Ministries or Departments which, on their present showing at least, might very well be severely curtailed. I may refer, for example, to Industry and Commerce. As a representative of the business community, it pains me much to say, Sir, that businessmen hardly feel or realise that an agency of such beneficent governmental activity really functions. In that context, Sir, the interim report on staff requirements that has been circulated to honourable members is not at all helpful to an understanding of the problem. For, whatever it might say, that there is a large scope for economy in expenditure cannot be gainsaid. The question of economy in expenditure—administrative expenditure—is really so important that justice cannot be done to it by referring it merely to a departmental officer who has to assess only staff requirements. I agree with my honourable friend Dr. Ghosh that an appropriate committee should be appointed which should enquire into this question and make its recommendations.

In the second place, Sir, the position in regard to the development programme and the procedure of its implementation are not quite satisfactory. What is disquieting about the development programme is that most of it is not developmental in character at all and should have been included under ordinary expenditure. What is even more serious is that it is being undertaken without sufficient forethought and attention and almost haphazardly. In this context the exhortation of the Finance Minister that there must be preparatory work and examination before work is started is pointless and only an expression of pious sentiment. I may also refer you, Sir, to the provision which the Hon'ble the Finance Minister had made in the last year's budget in almost all nation-building departments for planning organisations so that plans could be drawn up after mature consideration and an integrated and comprehensive development plan could be formulated. Yet in the revised estimates this year all these grants have been omitted. The first casualty of shortage of funds has been planning organisations, although plans and schemes merrily multiply. I may also draw your attention, Sir, to the fact that last year the Hon'ble the Finance Minister gave us an assurance that he would provide this House this year with a progressive report of all schemes included in the development programme. This information has not been supplied. A brochure entitled "Statement showing progress of development schemes, etc.", has been circulated to honourable members but it does not provide this information at all. Sir, I have not the time to discuss this matter fully but I believe one or two examples will illustrate my point. I may refer honourable members to page 24 of this publication which deals with the department with which the Hon'ble the Finance Minister is himself associated, namely, Industries—Industries—Scheme No. 4—reorganisation of the Department of Sericulture.

Against the column "A brief indication of the progress of the Scheme" the remark is "The object of the scheme is to expand the administrative organisation of the Department", etc. "The details of the scheme are under examination". So the indication of the progress refers to the object in view only and the details have not been drawn up but funds have been provided and the scheme goes merrily on. Judge again, Scheme No. 6—Reorganisation of the Textile Institute, Serampore, Scheme No. 8—Expansion and reorganisation of the Tanning Institute, Calcutta, and Scheme No. 9—Reorganisation of Industrial Research Laboratory. Indication of progress in each case is that the scheme has been postponed. Nothing is said as to why the scheme has been postponed, as to whether any detailed scheme was drawn up, as to whether any expenditure was incurred, as to whether any progress had been made. Without such information, Sir, it is not possible to assess the merit of any of these schemes or to judge what achievements are expected of them. I do not think any further comment is necessary on that.

In the third place, Sir, I should like to refer to the refugee problem which is really a very big problem. I do not think that the claim of the Finance Minister that it is well in hand is quite justified. I do not think, Sir, that anything has been done yet to help the refugees to really find their feet in their new homes and in their new surroundings. The money that we had obtained from the Government of India has to a large extent been spent in giving doles and maintaining establishments and not really in rehabilitating the refugees. It is however very gratifying that the Hon'ble the Premier himself has been taking a very keen and personal interest in the matter and I sincerely hope that it will soon yield some satisfactory solution; as otherwise, Sir, it does not require a prophet to say that the consequences would be very grave involving probably even the stability of the Province.

In the fourth place, Sir, I would like the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to give this House a proper account including a profit and loss account of all the business transactions and other business activities that are undertaken by the Government and that should include also business transactions carried on by the Civil Supplies Department. A credit of 2¼ lakhs and 8½ lakhs for 1948-49 and 1949-50 respectively, has been taken in the budget without however providing not only—as the Finance Minister himself has said—for depreciation and insurance but also without providing anything for overhead office cost. Nobody, Sir, knows better than the Finance Minister himself that this is not a good business practice and that if adequate provision were made under these items the undertaking would probably be seen to be running at a loss. We should also like to know whether, in connection with the business transactions of the Civil Supplies Department, adequate provision is made for say, loss, shortage, deterioration and if annual physical stocks are regularly taken so that we may know where actually we stand. In the next place, Sir, We should again ask the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to give us some idea of the actual results achieved by the "Grow More Food" campaign. It appears to me, Sir, that money is being spent rather wastefully and mostly on establishment cost and it is not possible without relevant statistics to say whether the campaign is really proving useful or useless. I feel, Sir, that expenditure is being incurred without giving us facts because the results are not quite satisfactory.

Finally, Sir, I should like to say that I agree with the Hon'ble the Finance Minister when he says that we should not be tied to the apron strings of "isms". But I would only request him not to add one more to the many existing ones, namely, an anti-"ism". If we all are "ismists" or anti-"ismists" then all our fight would be around "isms" and anti-"isms" and our attention would be diverted away from the hard facts and real problems that confront us. If we are really interested in the real problems,

as we believe we all are, then let us not bother ourselves as to what the "isms" are or what the "ismists" say. But let us devote ourselves to tackle these problems adequately. Sir, the financial condition of this Province is both satisfactory and unsatisfactory. From the point of view of revenue we must say that with the size of our province the position is not unsatisfactory. Yet our resources for developmental or nation-building activities are meagre. Whatever we have been spending for developmental purposes is being met out of funds received from the Government of India and this will go on for three or four years only.

What thereafter and what about the recurring expenditure which will be still left with us? This is a grave problem and we should seriously ponder over it. In this context, Sir, the question of economy becomes urgent, for it is true that we must try to have an expanison of our revenues and we must also press upon the Government of India to do justice by us. I would like to ask you, Sir, whether we can afford the present administrative expenditure even if it were contended that it cannot be reduced consistent with the dictates of good and satisfactory administration. For a good and satisfactory administration is but a relative term and must bear some relationship to our capacity to pay. But probably the situation is not so serious. For I believe there is a large scope for economy in expenditure. In this context we should try to conserve our resources and not fritter them away in many varied schemes. On the contrary we should try to fix some priorities and devote these resources to the attainment of one or two objectives. If, for example, we think that education is our most important problem, although our Premier may think that Public Health and Medical should occupy that position,—if we think education to be most important, let us devote all our resources, even by starving other nation-building departments, to making primary education compulsory and placing secondary education on a sound basis. In that way we shall have achieved something solid and abiding, whereas by pursuing our present policy we shall never reap any large or lasting benefit.

Destiny, Sir, had willed it that this House should have the proud privilege and responsibility of playing a significant role in the task of laying on a sound basis the socio-economic foundation of this province. I am afraid, Sir, the way in which we are acquitting ourselves in this task and discharging our solemn responsibility, we may not be entitled to hold our heads high before posterity.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, there is a Sanskrit adage which says: Speak the truth, speak sweet words, but speak not the unpleasant truth. I have disregarded this prudent advice and thus been deservedly made the victim of a veritable salvo of brickbats. It came not only from the Opposition but also from some of the members of the party to which I have the honour to belong. I am not surprised, however, that they have combined in attacking my budget statement. In these difficult days it is good that people should be wide awake and not take things lying down. But people must be told what to expect and what to shun in concrete terms and not in terms of vague generalities and slogans.

My long experience of public life, however, has somewhat inured me to abuse. I have nonetheless always thought it proper to call a spade a spade and that is all that I have done in my budget statement. I have stated a few facts and tried to show the practical difficulties that prevent the improvement or retard the progress of our economy. There may be some misconceptions about my budget statement and to remove them, I would emphasise that I have not said anything contrary to the accepted Congress policy, as far as I understand it. I have always strongly felt that we should have a clear understanding of the practical implications of our problems.

If in probing the pros and cons of a problem we come face to face with unpleasant facts or with something that is contrary to our ideology, we should not flinch.

It is farthest from my intention to conceal anything from the House; on the contrary, I would like to make a full exposition of all the facts. With this end in view, this year we have circulated, though it is not at all perfect, several memoranda analysing different matters for the convenience of the honourable members and to assist them in forming a correct appreciation of the position.

I find that in the general discussion of the budget many honourable members have referred to specific points, relating to different departments. These will be replied to at the time of voting on supplies by the Hon'ble Ministers in charge of different departments who, I am sure, are in a better position to indicate to the House what exactly the Government are doing in regard to the various problems. I will not, therefore, take the time of the House for this and confine myself to the general economic and financial policy of the Government as indicated in my Budget statement. We do not claim infallibility, far less perfection. There may be, I devoutly hope, there are, men who can tackle the problems in a better and more workmanlike way. We may have made mistakes but we hope to profit by them. All that we claim for ourselves is that we have tried to do our best and who amongst us can do more than that?

I must thank Mr. Deven Sen for his correctly appreciating the difficulties that beset a Finance Minister in the new set-up of things. I sincerely thank him for the good things he has said regarding the smaller deficit. I can also well understand Mr. Sen's emphasis on labour as he represents a Labour constituency, and I quite appreciate his enunciation of the labour point of view. I am glad that Mr. Sen has no quarrel with me in so far as our basic problem of the day, viz., Production, is concerned. All that Mr. Sen takes exception to is what he calls a philosophy which, in his opinion, I have sought to propound and under which, he feels, the rich will remain rich and the poor poor. I am very sorry, Sir, the charge is wide of the mark. For, in the first place, I have not sought to propound any philosophy—economic or other—nor have I attempted to set the stage for an order of things in which the rich will remain rich and the poor poor. Mr. Sen will certainly appreciate that while he can emphasise a sectional interest of which he is a representative, I cannot do so simply because I have to, as the Finance Minister of the province, look to the larger interest of the people as a whole so that the interest of any one section cannot get the better of the other or injure it. If Mr. Sen will take my speech as a whole, I am sure, he will be comforted to find that in so far as our short-term needs are concerned, I have very little difference with him except that his emphasis is on labour alone while I have had to look to other interests as well, which, I feel, have also a part to play in the production of wealth, which is our immediate problem. I am quite sure, Mr. Sen will not be able to find a single sentiment which can lend itself to the interpretation that I do not desire labour to get its due share. I must state with all humility that I am not less concerned with the interest of labour, as I know that in the machinery of the production of wealth labour plays a vital role and its interest can be overlooked only to our peril. So, improvement in the condition of labour is one of our prior concerns, but it should at the same time be recognised that capital, entrepreneurs, management and technicians must also get their due share. If Mr. Sen will kindly refer to page 19 of my Budget Speech, he will find that I have not minced matters in so far as businessmen and industrialists are concerned. I have expressed my definite view that the days of large profits have gone and that they should make up their minds to share in a more equitable distribution of wealth

along with other sections of the community. I exhorted them to heed the writings on the wall, as I feel the spirit of the time is against them and against any sharp inequality.

I must state with all the emphasis at my command that when I have spoken of providing incentive to capital, I did not do so on ideological or theoretical grounds, but on the ground of stern practical policy; for, the House will appreciate that if capital does not get the incentive to expand, it will naturally stagnate and no extension of industries and business will be possible. The result will be that beyond the existing labour now employed, the scope for further employment in industries will be severely restricted. This must have a serious repercussion on labour itself.

The conflict between labour and capital has grown into a slogan of the present century. So often has the slogan been dinned into our ears and so often has the conflict been displayed before our eyes, that we have come to accept it almost as a matter of course. But what are the facts around us? Capital and labour are both essential to production and they do not live in two water-tight compartments. Whoever wants to produce must have capital. When a poor man manages a farm or runs a cottage industry or a rural shop or a small factory, he requires capital. Even communistic countries will require capital for production. Secondly, saving is essential to capital formation. The poor man may save a little to buy land or cattle for his farm or a machine for his small factory or a loom for his cottage industry or he may buy his capital requirements by borrowing other people's savings. If we look around us, we would find that almost everybody has some capital except perhaps the landless labourers. The growth of a class who cannot save and cannot have any capital is not ultimately conducive to the well-being of society. I want a society where everybody can save and will work according to his capacity so that everybody is a capitalist and labourer at the same time. Labour and capital should never be viewed as two mutually exclusive groups with separate badges pinned to their breasts. It is only in a society like this that capital and labour can co-operate fully to the best advantage of all. To think of labourers as a class apart and constantly warring against capital is not only unreal but extremely prejudicial to the interest of the country. Let us apply our minds to the realities of the situation. If anybody is wrong we should put him right. But let everybody have equal opportunity to save and labour so that he can give of his best to society, and also get his proper reward.

Mr. Sen has suggested that the capitalists are conspiring together to compel the Government to further their own aims and objects. Presumably these objects refer either to the control of production with a view to maintain prices at a high level and thereby to reap excessive profits, or to deny labour its fair share. I can assure Mr. Sen that if such a conspiracy does in fact exist today or even arises in the future, Government will resist it to the utmost. Monopolistic trends leading to combines and cartels, etc., such as one finds in the West have not made their appearance yet in this country and there is no reason to apprehend that they will. If they do, the Government will fight them to protect the legitimate interests of labour and consumers. In fact the Government is striving hard to increase production, and has set up Labour Tribunals to ensure that labour is not exploited.

On the other hand ours is a largely free economy, and the industrialists who are sharply competing with one another have not yet developed such a firm sense of unity, and a high degree of organisation as to hatch a conspiracy to further their own ends. Perhaps the poorness of the returns to capital is drying up the springs of investment; perhaps the uncertainties of the transitionary period are keeping investors from coming into the

open. But whatever the cause, it is a fact that fresh capital has become hesitant and on that account some concessions have been made to capital on the Government of India's budget proposals also. I have advocated the same policy. These aspects of the budget, to which the honourable Members take such serious objection, only reflect the principles enunciated at the Centre by the top men and leaders of our own party. But with our resources and our handicaps the process of improving their lot must necessarily be a slow process, but also, I can assure the honourable members, a continuous process as our resources and our capacity go on expanding. But I have always hesitated to hold out hopes which I know we cannot, in spite of our best intentions, fulfil.

Mr. Sen has apparently been perturbed by my remarks on the doctrine of equality and he seems to suggest that my views are against the accepted policy of the Congress and the lead given by the Jaipur Congress. I must say, Sir, that even after such a serious charge I still remain unconvinced for what I have said. As the House is well aware the economic programme of the Congress has been largely the handiwork of our illustrious Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was the *Spiritus rector* of the Economic Programme Sub-Committee of the Indian National Congress. I can take it that his views embody the quintessence of the Congress economic policy. I may be permitted to quote an extract from the speech of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru delivered at the Jaipur Congress which states: "We have so far achieved only our political independence. But that is not enough. We have not fought only for political Swaraj. We want to establish a 'people's raj' and that will be done only when we can win economic independence as well. We shall have to build up a society where every man and woman gets enough food, clothing and shelter. Without that, freedom is not complete. We shall have to do away with economic inequality. We shall have a society where everyone will have equality of opportunity to grow and prosper according to his capacity and intelligence."

I can tell the House that this is exactly the view which I also hold and this is the philosophy—as Mr. Deven Sen has chosen to call it—that I think it would be prudent for us to adopt. I do not think, Sir, that the absolute economic equality which Mr. Sen has in view, is at all possible, not only at present, but also in any foreseeable future. This type of equality is not to be found anywhere in the wide world. While I strongly feel that the present disparity of wealth between the rich and the poor should be made as narrow as possible, I do not at the same time think that in view of the small number of rich men in our community, it would be a practical measure merely to level down those who are high up in the ladder. Suppose for the sake of a strict adherence to the doctrine of economic equality, we pooled together the total wealth and divided it with mathematical exactitude amongst the entire population it would not bring in the Utopia that we dream of and will benefit the poor only by a matter of few pies. But by impoverishing capital it would dry up every incentive to the production of wealth and it would be a calamity of the first magnitude for the country. But if this incentive is there, the process of production of more and more wealth will continue thus benefiting more and more men.

I have emphasised on levelling up because I feel that even by the most drastic process of levelling down, we cannot level up the poor, whose number is so vast in this country in comparison with the rich in the community whose number is very small and the amount of their wealth also is not of the order to be found in the West. On the other hand the process of levelling down is going on steadily in this country for the last few years by the device of higher taxation and higher wages. Therefore, my emphasis was obviously on levelling up. I can assure the House that this will be a continuous and dynamic process till the disparity between the rich and the poor is reduced to the minimum.

I must confess, Sir, that I find no means whereby the equality of the type Mr. Sen envisages can be brought about. I cannot yet visualise a society in which a scientist, technician or a high-level executive will receive the same return for their labour as a labourer or a clerk. But what must be ensured is that there must be equal opportunity for all for the fullest measure of self-development and there should be no distinction of class. We shall build a society, as Pandit Nehru says, where every one will have equality of opportunity to grow and prosper according to his capacity and intelligence.

Mr. Sen, I am afraid, has not quite followed my remarks about the minimum standard for all. The minimum standard I have in view is not something static and unrelated to objective conditions. It should be so provided that the country is in a position to bear it after considering all the circumstances. But the basic need of the day is food, clothing, housing, etc., which should be made available to all; and as Panditji so aptly puts it, "we shall have to build up a society where every man and woman gets enough food, clothing and shelter". As the wealth of the country grows and the standard of living goes up higher in the process, the minimum standard would also go up in consequence.

In my speech I have shown how in some select industries, such as coal, the number of labourers has gone up while there has been no commensurate increase in production. It seems Mr. Sen is disposed to think that the blame for this should lie with the industrialist. While I do not for a moment deny that there might be some dereliction on the part of the industrialists, I think that Mr. Sen also will not be able to state categorically that labour has been exemplary in doing its duty. I never laid the whole blame on labour in my statement but merely said that at least a partial explanation lies in the fact that productivity of labour per man-hour has declined. I fully agree with Mr. Sen that this should be a fit case for investigation by a Committee. I myself feel strongly that these economic matters should be fully investigated at expert level and all factual data about these problems collected before formulating any policy. I have indicated it clearly in my speech where I have emphasised that mere conferences of different interests will not help us very much to arrive at a correct appreciation of economic problems unless our factual knowledge is full and complete. Mr. Sen has raised several other points regarding labour. My honourable colleague the Labour Minister will indicate to the House the policy of the Government in this regard and the measures taken at the time of the voting of supplies.

The criticisms of my friend Dr. Suresh Banerjee rest mostly on ideological premises and he should find an answer to them in what I have just said. I would like to repeat that absolute economic equality is a chimera about which very fine sentiments are often expressed but which no country in the world has attained. Even in the U. S. S. R. where a bold experiment was launched, the authorities had soon to retrace their steps. To bring every one down to the same level of uniform mediocrity—scientists, technicians, experts, financiers, chief justices, bench clerks, peons, clerks, labourers, Generals, privates, and all—may be a proposition dear to my honourable friend's heart but it is not one that prudence would recommend or the practical facts of life as it is, and not as it should be, would make possible to achieve. I would like Dr. Banerjee, solicitous as he is for the underdog, to prescribe a formula by which all mankind could be pruned or primed into one dead level. His suggestion that the Industrial Tribunals, by administering doses of uplift from year to year to labour, bring it to the level of employers and others, hardly merits serious attention. I find Dr. Banerjee's world of equality is confined to labour alone. Outside labour there is the vast population who do not enjoy equality of the type Dr. Banerjee envisages. Industrial Tribunals can not

bring them the equality Dr. Banerjee so fondly hopes for. He forgets that we live in a dynamic world where nothing remains stationary for long. The implication of Dr. Banerjee's criticisms seems to be that I have pampered capitalists and industrialists at the cost of labour which I have never done—and he indignantly asks where the 100 crores of rupees which the profiteers lifted from the open market in cloth have disappeared. I would request him to ask the businessmen and industrialists themselves amongst whom he has many friends. I hold no brief—who does?—for black-marketeers and profiteers; they certainly should be ruthlessly hunted down. But I certainly hold that capital is essential for progress and expansion and I confess that I am not prejudiced against any one merely on the ground that he possesses the wherewithal to bring it about.

I hope I shall be pardoned for pointing out to my honourable friend that in these days of impatience and intolerance it is a dangerous policy to raise false hopes that must needs be belied. It is better far to promise little and offer more than to promise an empire to men who eventually come a cropper. If I may recall an instance to my honourable friend's memory, he made a press announcement in December 1947 that he would buy out the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation at a cost of 35 crores or so. The date for serving notice on the company fell on January 1, 1948. He was still in power as a Minister on that date but, Sir, the notice was not served. I can quite imagine and appreciate the many difficulties that must have encountered in giving effect to his promise and I mention this only to suggest that there is usually a very wide gulf between what we may state and what we can actually achieve. He has made certain specific criticisms regarding Government's industrial policy. These will be dealt with at the time of voting of supplies.

In the matter of supporting or at any rate, not outlawing, private enterprise, I am in good company. My able and esteemed opposite number at the Centre, Dr. John Matthai, while presenting the Central Budget, said, "with the huge potential demand in this country for both consumer and capital goods, there is bound to be for many years a wide field for private enterprise". If this is the considered view of the Centre which is another name of the Congress High Command in office, where, may I ask, have I deviated in any way from Congress policy which Dr. Banerjee no doubt holds dear? On the contrary, my honourable friend is known to have made many statements attacking the Centre's policy of postponing nationalisation of key industries by ten years. His more eager and patriotic heart would brook no delay.

Curiously I have had to face a double-barrelled barrage—of not supporting immediate nationalisation and attempting unprofitable and partial nationalisation. One honourable member, my predecessor in office, thinks that the Government should not have started partial nationalisation of transport in Calcutta and should have left it to societies on a co-operative basis. The Finance Minister has to adopt a middle path in between two extremes. Nationalisation of a big industry for a Provincial Government is not a child's play. It is not a toy you can purchase at a store, even at a national store. Let my friend Dr. Banerjee or any other honourable member go over the whole problem, consult the Centre and other high-level authorities and prepare a blue print as to how complete economic equality may be effected and a rapid nationalisation of major industries may be profitably and economically undertaken without seriously dislocating our entire economy and I can assure him that my obduracy will not stand in the way. But it must be a practical proposition, not mere talking in the air.

As for my friend Sri Haripada Chatterji I was prepared, the moment he was on his legs, for a virulent tirade against me. For throughout my public life my honourable friend has failed to see eye to eye with me. He

had a brief spell of cordiality for about 2 months in the middle of 1947 but it was merely a respite. His fantastic plea that financial operations should shrink in the same ratio as the shrinkage in territory hardly needs any refutation. Finance is not arithmetic—not, at any rate, arithmetic as my honourable friend understands it.

My friend Janab Abul Hashem, who fired the first volley against the budget, criticised the Congress more than the budget. It is futile to enter the lists with him to champion the Congress. But if the vision of the Congress does not stretch as far as 250 years or 50 years or even 5 years, why does not my honourable friend open its eyes by making concrete suggestions? An ounce of practical suggestion is worth bushels of advice and tons of criticism. Of that one vainly looks for a trace in my honourable friend's speech. His recipe that the refugee problem can only be solved when the two Bengals are united is a truism; that it should be independent from its ties with Delhi and Karachi is, I think, under the present circumstances, an absurdity.

I must congratulate my esteemed friend and predecessor Sri Annada Prasad Chowdhury on the fact that instead of soaring high on the ideological plane, he has confined his criticism to the budget proper. My honourable colleagues will answer his points regarding the expenditure and the provisions in the respective departments.

I shall only refer to one point of his criticism. He has stated that the villages have been neglected in the budget. I believe with him that our villages must be resuscitated in the national interest. The departments are working for that according to their programme and means. But I must not join issue with him when he says that the budget as a whole displays lack of sympathy for the villages. Sir, I shall not be very wrong if I say that as high a proportion as 75 to 80 per cent. of our taxation is raised in the towns but not very much more than 50 per cent. of our expenditure is incurred in towns. Secondly, the whole of the benefit of an item of expenditure, if incurred in town, may not wholly go to townsmen. The men trained in the Calcutta Medical College, Sibpur, and Jadavpur Engineering Colleges will work not for towns alone but for villages also. Such trained men are essential for village uplift. If he carefully considers the matter, he will, I am sure, be fully convinced that such a charge is unreal. Government expenditure, in so far as it improves human material and technical efficiency, goes to the benefit of all.

I have heard with attention the speech made by my honourable friend Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ghosh who is unfortunately not here now. With regard to his remarks about my observations about economic equality and other economic facts I have already spoken in connection with my reply to the other speeches. Sir, I am in entire agreement with him that our non-productive expenditure should be curtailed as far as possible, and every Finance Minister will agree with him on this point. But the whole difficulty is—how to do it. He says that he can make an appeal to the highly paid officers to take less pay. Sir, as it so happened, Dr. Ghosh had the advantage of making such an appeal when he became our first Premier and was responsible for setting up the new structure of this Province's administration. If even now his appeal can evoke response in appropriate quarters, no one shall be more glad than myself. I also admit, sir, if people become imbued with the spirit of non-violence so much of police expenditure will certainly not be necessary. But the question is —Is it possible all at once? Unless we can all combine and become non-violent, and proceed peacefully to our goal, it is not possible: we must remember that even the Prophet of Non-violence was himself a victim of violence. It cannot be our immediate programme, but it is a long-range programme that will require time.

I now come to the remarks of my friend, Mr. Siddiqi. He says that I have not clearly placed the financial position of our province in my budget statement. The budget-portion of my speech is no doubt short; but I have circulated many statements that may help members to understand what we are doing and what has already been done, and, therefore, I did not want to include them in my budget statement. But I have narrated in full in my budget speech the real financial question affecting our financial policy.

My friend Sri Bimal Comar Ghose has raised some questions on the individual items of expenditure under the different budget heads. I leave it to the individual Ministers dealing with their respective departmental budgets to explain the position during the actual voting of grants. From this year we have adopted this new procedure that the Finance Minister will not reply to all the questions, but every departmental Minister will explain the policy underlying his department and meet the criticisms of members on their departmental budgets.

Sir, I have also heard the criticisms against our new measures of taxation, particularly against the levy of sales tax on some of the necessaries of life. No one is more sorry than myself that these impositions have got to be made. Honourable Members will recall that when these proposals were made before the House, the Hon'ble the Premier made it clear that these proposals were made with a heavy heart. Our budgetary forecasts were then such that Government had to take power for levying those taxes. Now we find, however, that the position of the budget has fortunately improved to some extent and for that reason Government have now decided to exempt mustard oil from the operation of sales tax and with regard to some other essential commodities Government will consider whether it will be possible to exempt any of the other items as well that affect the poor. I may also say for the information of the House that many provinces have had to tax even foodgrains and that the exemption list has been the longest in our Province.

Thank you, Sir.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-33 p.m. till 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 5th March, 1949, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 5th March, 1949, at 10 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Sri ASHUTOSH MALLICK) in the Chair, 7 Hon'ble Ministers and 49 members.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move the following resolution on behalf of the Government:—

This Assembly is of opinion that the West Bengal Security Act, 1948 (West Bengal Act, III of 1948), do continue in force for a further period of one year from the date on which the said Act would, under sub-section (*4*) of section 1 thereof, otherwise cease to operate.

As members are aware, this West Bengal Act III of 1948 was altered by an amendment which was passed by this House in January session, but the section dealing with the period for which the Act will be in operation is contained in section 1(*4*) which reads thus: It shall, in the first instance, remain in force for a period of one year provided that if a resolution in that behalf is, before the date on which under this sub-section it would otherwise have ceased to operate, passed by the Provincial Legislature, it shall continue in force for a further period of one year from such date. Therefore, Sir, I move that the resolution be accepted by the House that the Security Act do remain in force for a period of one year from the date of expiry of the term of the Act.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Hon'ble Premier has simply moved that it be extended for another year, but he has not given out or explained why he needs this extension. Sir, had he explained the necessity for such extension, we could have considered his proposal, but as in moving he has not given any reason whatever for this extension, I do not think that we should allow such extension.

In the first place, Sir, this Security Act was amended. There was a clause that a man may be arrested and detained if a reasonable cause existed—that was the provision. It was rather a salutary provision. But, Sir, subsequently this very reasonable clause was deleted and it became an Act which looked like a black Act of the worst type and not an Act which should be passed by a democratic legislature. In spite of that, Sir, it was passed. Now, the Hon'ble Premier asks for an extension. As he has not given the reason why extension is necessary, I do not think, Sir, we should grant it.

Janab MAHAMMAD SAYEED MIA: মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়, বর্তমান পরিস্থিতিতে এই নিরাপত্তা আইনের [illegible] আমরা কতকটা স্বীকার করলেও অতীতে এ আইনের যে অপব্যবহার হয়েছে, তাতে এর মেয়াদ বৃদ্ধির সম্পর্কে আমাদের মোলিক আপত্তি এবং প্রতিবাদ আছে। তখন যে সময়ে এই আইনের প্রথম প্রচলন করা হয়—তখন আমরা দেখেছিলাম যে সাম্প্রদায়িক সংঘর্ষ চরমে উঠেছে এবং ভারতের চতুর্দিকে বর্মা, চীন এবং অন্যান্য স্থানে যে অন্তর্বিপ্লব দেখা দিয়েছে এবং সেই অন্তর্বিপ্লবের আগুন যেভাবে ভারতের দিকে এগিয়ে আসছে, তাতে এই সমস্ত বিপদের আশঙ্কা করে এই আইনের প্রয়োজনীয়তা তখন অস্বীকার করতে পারা যায়নি। তারপরে এই আইনের যখন সংশোধন হয়

তখন দেশের কতকগুলি অবস্থা অস্বাভাবিক ছিল; তখনও এই আইনের প্রয়োজনীয়তা অস্বীকার করতে পারা যায়নি এবং বর্তমানে দমদম এবং বসিরহাটে যে সমস্ত ভয়াবহ কাণ্ড ঘটেছে তারপরেও এই আইনের প্রয়োজনীয়তা অস্বীকার করতে পারা যায় না। কিন্তু যেভাবে আইনের ক্ষমতার অপব্যবহার হয়েছে এবং কতকগুলি ভিত্তিহীন অতিরঞ্জিত মিথ্যা ঘটনা এবং রিপোর্টের ভিত্তিতে যেভাবে নিরীহ নিরপরাধ শান্তিপ্রিয় লোককে দলে দলে গ্রেপ্তার করে তাদেরকে মাসের পর মাস জেলখানায় আটক করে রাখা হয়েছে, যেভাবে তাদের সকল সাংসারিক ভীষণ অনি এবং সামাজিক মান ইজ্জত হানির মধ্যে তাদেরকে ফেলা হয়েছে তাতে এই আইনের চরম অপব্যবহার করা হয়েছে বলে এর মেয়াদ বৃদ্ধির বিরুদ্ধে ঘোর আপত্তি জানাচ্ছি। এই আইনের সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেণ্ট নানা প্রকার প্রতিশ্রুতি দেওয়া সত্ত্বেও এবং এর ক্ষমতার ব্যবহার অত্যন্ত সাবধানে করা হবে বললেও আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি এই আইনের দ্বারা হিতের চেয়ে বিপরীত বেশী হচ্ছে।

কিছুদিন আগে আমরা দেখেছি মালদহ জেলাতে ৩০ থেকে ৪০ জন মাইনরিটী সম্প্রদায়ের লোককে বিশেষ কোন কারণ না থাকা সত্ত্বেও তাদেরকে ধরে গ্রেপ্তার করে জেলখানায় বহুদিন পর্য্যন্ত আটকে রাখা হ'ল এবং তারপরে আবার খুসীমত তাদের এখন ছেড়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে। হাজার হাজার লোকের বন্দুক কেড়ে নিয়ে তাদের লাইসেন্স সাসপেণ্ড করে গভর্ণমেণ্ট ডিপোজিট নিয়েছেন, এখনও পর্য্যন্ত তাদের বন্দুক ফেরৎ দেওয়া হচ্ছে না। এই রকমভাবে আমরা দেখেছি যে দেশের স্বার্থের বিরুদ্ধ বা রাজদ্রোহমূলক অপরাধকে দমন করবার জন্য এই আইনের প্রচলন করা হয়েছিল বটে কিন্তু কাজের বেলায় গভর্ণমেণ্ট এর অপব্যবহার বেশী করেছেন। এই অবস্থায় আমরা মনে করছি যে এই আইনের ব্যবহার যদি ঠিকভাবে গভর্ণমেণ্ট করতে না পারেন এবং আইনের যে অসীম ক্ষমতার সুযোগ লাভ করে পুলিসকে দেশের লোকের উপর অত্যাচার করবার সুযোগ দেন, তবে আমরা বলবো যে এই আইন পাস হবার চেয়ে না হওয়াই ভাল। বর্ত্তমানে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে সমস্ত আইনে এখন দেশ শাসন করছেন--আমি বলি--সেই সমস্ত আইনের দ্বারাই রাজদ্রোহমূলক সমস্ত অপরাধকে দমন করা যেতে পারে। নিরাপত্তা আইনের অসীম ক্ষমতাবলে যে ভীষণ অনিষ্টসাধন হচ্ছে, এই অভিজ্ঞতার পরে আমরা এই আইনকে আর চলতে দিতে কিছুতেই ইচ্ছা করি না। সুতরাং আমি এই আইনের মেয়াদ বৃদ্ধির বিরুদ্ধে প্রতিবাদ জানাচ্ছি।

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not trouble the members of the House with an explanation of why I put forward this resolution, because I thought that members of the Assembly along with members of the public do go about with their eyes and ears open and I also thought that after what I stated yesterday, every sentence of which I can vouch for as regards accuracy, I should not trouble with another speech the members of the House. My honourable friend over there has complained that the law has not operated against the minority community as he desired. There are always two sides to every question, but no law, no Government, no police, no Act can act properly unless the people are alive and alert. If there are any mistakes, if there have been any excesses committed it is always open to the honourable member or any other member or even a member of the public to bring the matter before us, so that we might sift it. If there are agents who are not following the instructions they will be dealt with properly. I can tell my honourable friends that even with regard to the recent arrests as soon as we are satisfied with regard to particular persons that they really have not taken any part in any subversive movement we release them. In fact, yesterday we released 20 people. But because some are arrested who ultimately on closer analysis are found not to be very directly implicated in the crime, to say that this Act is not necessary is to go about with eyes blind-folded. I appeal to the members of the House to let the Act continue for a further period of one year, and I can assure them, as my predecessor-in-office had assured them, that any instance brought to the notice of Government where this Act has not been operating properly will be looked into and proper measures taken.

With these words, Sir, I commend my resolution for the acceptance of the House.

The resolution of the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy that this Assembly is of opinion that the West Bengal Security Act, 1948 (West

Bengal Act, III of 1948), do continue in force for a further period of one year from the date on which the said Act would, under sub-section (4) of section 1 thereof, otherwise cease to operate, was then put and agreed to.

GOVERNMENT BILLS.

The West Bengal Amusements Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1949.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, I beg to introduce the West Bengal Amusements Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1949.

(The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.)

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I beg to move that the West Bengal Amusements Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1949, be taken into consideration.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill, was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill, was then put and agreed to.

Clause 3.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that in clause 3(3)(*i*), lines 2 and 3, for the words "eight annas" the words "one rupee" be substituted.

I also beg to move that in clause 3(3)(*ii*), line 1, for the words "eight annas" the words "one rupee" be substituted.

Sri D. N. MUKHERJI: Sir, I have got three short-notice amendments. May I have your permission to move them?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Sri D. N. MUKHERJI: Sir, I beg to move that in clause 3, in item (*i*) of proposed sub-section (3*a*) of section 3 of the Bengal Amusements Tax Act, 1922, in the second column after the words "twenty-five *per centum* of such payment", the words "rounded off, if it is not a multiple of half anna, to the next higher multiple of half anna" be added.

I also beg to move that in clause 3, in item (*ii*) of proposed sub-section (3*a*) of section 3 of the Bengal Amusements Tax Act, 1922, in the second column after the words "fifty *per centum* of such payment," the words "rounded off, if it is not a multiple of an anna, to the next higher multiple of an anna" be added.

Lastly, I move that in clause 3, in item (*iii*) of proposed sub-section (3*a*) of section 3 of the Bengal Amusements Tax Act, 1922, in the second column after the words "seventy-five *per centum* of such payment," the words "round off, if it is not a multiple of an anna, to the next higher multiple of an anna" be added.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I accept all the amendments.

Janab A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: *Sir, may I request the Chief Whip to explain his amendments, because I for myself have not been able to understand the implications. What are the actual implications?*

Sri D. N. MUKHERJI: Supposing the amusement tax comes to 4 a. 6 p. or 5 a. 6 p. instead of taking half anna as it is it will be rounded off, and the rounding off will not be on a lower level but will be on a higher level.

The motion of Sri Bimal Comar Ghose that in clause 3(*3*)(*i*), lines 2 and 3, for the words "eight annas" the words "one rupee" be substituted was then put and agreed to.

The motion of Sri Bimal Comar Ghose that in clause 3(*3*)(*ii*), line 1, for the words "eight annas" the words "one rupee" be substituted, was then put and agreed to.

The motion of Sri D. N. Mukherji that in clause 3, in item (*i*) of proposed sub-section (*3a*) of section 3 of the Bengal Amusements Tax Act, 1922, in the second column after the words "twenty-five *per centum* of such payment", the words "rounded off, if it is not a multiple of half anna, to the next higher multiple of half anna" be added was then put and agreed to.

The motion of Sri D. N. Mukherji that in clause 3, in item (*ii*) of proposed sub-section (*3a*) of section 3 of the Bengal Amusement Tax Act, 1922, in the second column after the words, "fifty *per centum* of such payment", the words "rounded off, if it is not a multiple of an anna, to the next higher multiple of an anna" be added was then put and agreed to.

The motion of Sri D. N. Mukherji that in clause 3, in item (*iii*) of proposed sub-section (*3a*) of section 3 of the Bengal Amusements Tax Act, 1922, in the second column after the words, "seventy-five *per centum* of such payment", the words, "rounded off, if it is not a multiple of an anna, to the next higher multiple of an anna" be added was then put and agreed to.

The question that clause 3 as amended do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 4.

The question that clause 4 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 5.

The question that clause 5 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 6.

The question that clause 6 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 7.

The question that clause 7 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the preamble do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I beg to move that the West Bengal Amusements Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1949, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The West Bengal Finance Bill, 1949.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I beg leave to introduce the West Bengal Finance Bill, 1949.

(The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.)

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I beg to move that the West Bengal Finance Bill, 1949, be taken into consideration.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 3.

The question that clause 3 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 4.

The question that clause 4 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the preamble do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I beg to move that the West Bengal Finance Bill, 1949, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Laying of Amendments to the Bengal Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

The Hon'be Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: I beg for permission to lay the amendments to the Bengal Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, on the table.

The West Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1949.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Sir, I beg leave to introduce the West Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1949.

(The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.)

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: I beg to move that the West Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1949, be taken into consideration.

The reason why this amending bill has been placed before the Assembly is given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons which says that "whereas under section 25 of the Motor Vehicles Act of 1939 a motor vehicle may be temporarily registered for a period up to one month, under the Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1932, tax is payable for a minimum period of a quarter (three months). To remove this anomaly the present Bill has been introduced".

Sir, in the Act itself there is a provision that the owner of a vehicle before he takes delivery of it in Calcutta must deposit a tax for three months. If he then takes his vehicle out of the Province within the same month he is entitled to a refund of 2 months' tax. The proposed amendment will save him the bother of claiming refund and it will save a great deal of time and clerical work on the part of the Motor Vehicles Department. The proposal is that as soon as a person asks for a temporary registration for one month he deposits the motor vehicles tax for one month instead of three months.

The motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy that the West Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1949, be taken into consideration was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill, was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill, was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the Preamble do stand part of the Bill, was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the West Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1949, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 10-32 a.m. till 4 p.m. on Monday, the 7th March, 1949, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 7th March, 1949, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN) in the Chair, 7 Hon'ble Ministers and 49 members.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Threatened Railway Strike.

(Short Notice) *25. Sri ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state if it is a fact—

(*i*) that the Communist Party of India declared a strike in the railways and other transport services in and around Calcutta;

(*ii*) that such action involves the safety of innocent members of the public?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he proposes to take—

(*i*) to prevent such incidents;

(*ii*) to protect law-abiding citizens of Calcutta and West Bengal; and

(*iii*) to avoid any clash that might cause large scale disturbance and lawlessness in the Province?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the members are aware that while the All-India Railwaymen's Federation has declared against a railway strike, the Communist Unions in the Federation have declared their intention to have the strike. It is also our information that they will not only try to create trouble in the railways but they also desire to interfere with the transport system as a whole and other essential services including Posts, Telegraphs, Telephones, etc. Such interference will naturally cause undue hardship to a large section of people, if it is not prevented. The members are aware that the Government of India have taken a very strong view in regard to such activities and interference on the part of the Communist Party and other anti-social elements of society. Although the Party Executive in Bombay have declared their innocence so far as the Dum Dum outrage is concerned, we have apprehension that members of that party took part in it and actively helped it. The West Bengal Government is determined to see that the subversive anti-social elements do not get the upper hand. There will be enough protection arranged for the key positions so as to prevent any attempt at sabotage. The streets and other areas will be patrolled by armed forces so as to protect the law-abiding citizens who are anxious to follow their peaceful avocations. The Communist Party have up till now been utilising young students and thoughtless women who are made to suffer the results of any clash with the police, the party leaders themselves pulling the strings from behind. It may be that the party leaders have a design to try and flout the authorities openly on the 8th, 9th,

10th or any subsequent day and call for a clash which may require police action. When such a clash occurs, the innocent suffer along with the guilty—perhaps more than the guilty—while the wire-pullers hide themselves. In view of the above probabilities, it is desirable that all those who have got to go out on business should avoid crowding in places where clashes may be occurring or are about to occur. Refugees, in spite of their sufferings, should not allow themselves to be the cat's paws of this political game and get involved in anarchy and confusion. The West Bengal Government call upon all to co-operate with the Government in suppressing the lawless and turbulent elements of society whose sole aim seems to be the establishment of a reign of terror. Any information likely to lead to prevention or detection of a crime should be given by the public at the nearest police-station so that proper steps might be taken. The West Bengal Government will also issue a Press Note about this matter.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government intend to declare 9th March as a holiday so that law-abiding people may stay in their houses?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: We will take note of the suggestion.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Is the Government aware that on a similar occasion, viz., on the 16th August, 1946, having similar apprehensions, the then Government declared that particular day as a holiday but the result was contrary to our expectations?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: I will take note of that suggestion also.

Supplementary Demands.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, I beg to present before the House the Supplementary Estimate of Expenditure for the current year. The total amount covered by these estimates is about 6½ crores out of which 13 lakhs 40 thousand is for charged expenditure being charges on account of interest and pension.

The reasons for the present demands in the Supplementary Estimate have been set forth in the Explanatory Memorandum given under each head and circulated to honourable members. The Hon'ble Ministers-in-charge of different departments will go into them more fully as each demand is moved. I shall confine myself to a brief and general review of these supplementary estimates.

The House will find that the largest demand under the heads of Revenue Expenditure is under "Extraordinary Charges in India". This large additional expenditure is mainly due to adjustment of loss on sale of wheat and wheat products to the public in consequence of the higher prices of wheat and wheat products which were fixed by the Government of India in the beginning of 1948, but which were sold to the public at a lower price. The next largest demand is under Pre-partition Payments for which a provision of 1 crore has been made. The provision is to covevr the obligation of this Government to pay to the Government of East Bengal 35 lakhs for every crore paid by the latter on bills passed by the Application Committee. The demand under Police is for 34 lakhs 36 thousand which is mainly on account of strengthening of the Calcutta Police and the Bengal Police, linking of border police stations by wireless and purchase of launches, speed-boats and motor vehicles for giving better transport facilities to the Police. Under General Administration the extra demand of 13 lakhs 9 thousand is mainly for preparation of electoral rolls under the new constitution. The demand of 16 lakhs 63 thousand under Medical is for

increased expenditure under Provincialisation of Sadar and Subdivisional Hospitals which is due to increase in the number of beds and patients in some of the hospitals and for contributions paid to the mental hospitals at Ranchi and some private medical institutions.

In the budget for the current year the provision for the "Road Transport Scheme" was made under one head only, viz., "Capital Account of other provincial works outside the Revenue Account". Under a new accounts classification, the provision is now being made under two heads, viz., Receipts from Road Transport Scheme—*Deduct* Working Expenses and Capital Outlay on Road Transport Scheme outside the Revenue Account. The total provivsion under the two new heads is 60 lakhs as against 50 lakhs originally provided for. The real excess is, therefore, 10 lakhs. But the approval of the Legislature is being taken to the total provision of 60 lakhs as the provision is now being made under two new heads.

The demand of 50 lakhs 65 thousand under Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, etc., is on account of this Government's share of the cost of the Damodar Valley Project for the year 1948-49. This Government's share of cost is 91 lakhs 17 thousand of which a portion will be met by reappropriation of savings and the demand here is for the balance.

The demand under Loans and Avances by Provincial Governments stands at 2 crores 12 lakhs which is mainly on account of relief and rehabilitation of refugees and payment to the Damodar Valley Corporation of an advance equivalent to this Government's share of the cost of Damodar Valley Project which will be finally adjusted under Construction of Irrigation and Navigation, etc., by *per contra* credit as repayment of the advance. Under both these heads we pay out as loans what we receive as loans from the Government of India.

Two other items call for specific mention in this connection. These are the token demands for one rupee each under "Superannuation allowances and pensions" and "Miscellaneous" for the purpose of obtaining the assent of the Legislature to the expenditure on account of allowances and gratuities to political sufferers, their families and institutions and the expenditure on refugees. The expenditure will be met by savings but as it is on new service, approval of the Legislature is being sought through these token demands.

The demands under the remaining heads are comparatively small and the reasons therefor have been furnished under each head. I need not, therefore, trouble the hon'ble members with any further explanation of the supplementary demands under these heads.

GOVERNMENT BILLS.

The West Bengal Repealing and Amending Bill, 1949.

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Hon'ble Judicial Minister is ill, may I have your permission to move the motions on his behalf.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I beg to introduce the West Bengal Repealing and Amending Bill, 1949.

(The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.)

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I beg to move that the West Bengal Repealing and Amending Bill, 1949, be taken into consideration.

Sir, I need not make a long speech over this Bill. This is a very simple Bill. All the repeals and amendments shown in the Bill are purely formal in character and no controversial matter has been included. A brief explanation of each repeal and amendment proposed by the Bill has been shown opposite each such amendment. Clause 4 is a saving clause. In adapting this clause we have been guided by the many precedents in the Dominion Legislature and it is a verbatim reproduction of the clause that appears in those precedents. A similar provivsion has also been made in the last two Amending Acts of this Province. For this reason I commend this Bill to the acceptance of the House.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Bimal Chandra Sinha that the West Bengal Repealing and Amending Bill, 1949, be taken into consideration was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 3.

The question that clause 3 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 4.

The question that clause 4 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Schedule.

The question that the First Schedule do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The question that the Second Schedule do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the Preamble do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I beg to move that the West Bengal Repealing and Amending Bill, 1949, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The West Bengal District School Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1949.

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, unfortunately again my colleague the Hon'ble Minister for Education is unwell today. May I have your permission to move this Bill on his behalf?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I beg to introduce the West Bengal District School Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1949.

(The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.)

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I beg to move that the West Bengal District School Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1949, be taken into consideration.

Sir, the object of this Bill is shown in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I need not go into the details of the matter except to say that after the partition some districts were split up and as a result the District School Boards ceased functioning. As a temporary measure the West Bengal District School Boards Act, 1947, was passed which enable the Government to create *ad hoc* temporary bodies to carry on the administration of the school boards of those districts. Those *ad hoc* bodies were merely nominated bodies and those bodies will continue some time till the middle of this year. Now the intention of the Government is to replace those nominated bodies by elected bodies as these are elected under the Primary Education Act in other districts. With that object in view this Bill has been proposed so that in those partitioned districts where nominated bodies are functioning at present those bodies may be replaced, before the expiry of their term of office, by regularly elected District School Boards. That is the object of the Bill, Sir, and with these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Bimal Chandra Sinha that the West Bengal District School Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1949, be taken into consideration was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the Preamable do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I beg to move that the West Bengal District School Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1949, as setttled in the Assembly be passed.

The motion was then put and ageed to.

Laying of Rules framed under the West Bengal Rent Control (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1948.

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I beg to lay the Rules framed under section 47(3) of the West Bengal Premises Rent Control (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1948.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 4-30 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Friday, the 11th March, 1949, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 11th March, 1949, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 53 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Scarcity of milk in the Province.

***26. Maharaja SRIS CHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) if it is a fact—

(1) that our Province is suffering from scarcity of milk, and

(2) that the babies in the Province, feeding on milk only, are not getting their minimum requirement of milk due to this scarcity;

(*ii*) the number of babies in the Province feeding on milk only;

(*iii*) the minimum requirement of milk per diem for the proper nourishment of a baby feeding on milk only;

(*iv*) the average quantity of milk that is now available per diem for each baby feeding on milk only;

(*v*) the average total production of milk per diem in the Province; and

(*vi*) the average quantity of milk consumed for the preparation of *chhana* for making Indian sweetmeats?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*)(*i*) is in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of—

(*i*) controlling the use of milk for preparation of *chhana* for making Indian sweetmeats; and

(*ii*) stopping the slaughter of milch and calf-bearing cows till the milk position of the Province improves?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and VETERINARY DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sri Jadabendra Nath Panja): (*a*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) It is difficult to state the number of babies feeding on milk only. It appears from the births recorded in 1947 that there are in West Bengal about 375,000 babies aged 6 months and below.

(*iii*) The average requirement of milk, including breast milk, per diem for a baby is 20 ounces.

(*iv*) The average quantity of milk available *per capita* per diem is 1·54 ounces.

No separate figures are available for babies.

(*v*) 1,076 tons approximately.

(*vi*) 75,000 tons approximately per annum.

(*b*) These matters are under consideration of Government.

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI : মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলবেন কি তিনি যে এই প্রশ্নের (b) তে যে উত্তর দিয়েছেন তাতে বলেছেন "These matters are under consideration of Government"—এর মধ্যে আছে ছানা করবার জন্য দুধের ব্যবহার এবং যে গরুর দুধ হয় সে গরু মারা বন্ধ করা। যদি দুধ আমাদের পেতে হয় তবে মাত্র কি এই দুটো বিষয়—যা নাকি গভর্ণমেণ্ট বলছেন তাদের বিবেচনাধীন আছে, তবে দুধ আমাদের যদি পেতে হয় তা'হলে সেই দুধ বৃদ্ধির পক্ষে গভর্ণমেণ্ট আর কোন্ কোন্ জিনিষ বিবেচনা করছেন?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : আমি ঠিক ধরতে পারিনি, প্রশ্নটা আর একবার বলুন ত?

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI : এই যে দুটো বিষয় আছে—গোহত্যা ও ছানা তৈরী বন্ধ করা—এছাড়া আর কোন্ কোন্ বিষয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের বিবেচনাধীন আছে দুধ বৃদ্ধির সম্পর্কে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : যে সম্পর্কে প্রশ্ন করা হয়েছে সেই সম্বন্ধেই বলা হয়েছে যে বিবেচনাধীন আছে।

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJEE : মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি জানেন যে বাংলাদেশে নিজস্ব কোন গো-বংশ নাই এবং তা তৈরী করবার জন্য মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের কি কোন আয়োজন আছে? (হাস্য)

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : আমাদের স্থানীয় গরু যথেষ্ট আছে।

Janab ABUL HASHEM : মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দুগ্ধবতী কিংবা যেসমস্ত গাড়ী দুধ দিতে পারে তাদের যাতে বধ করা না হয় তার ব্যবস্থা করতে চাইছেন, আমি জানতে চাই কোন্ গরু দুগ্ধবতী হবে এবং কোন্ গরু হবে না—কার সিদ্ধান্ত সে বিষয়ে চূড়ান্ত হবে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : এ সম্বন্ধে যখন আইন করা হবে তখন সমস্ত বিষয় বিবেচনা করা হবে।

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJEE : মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের গোজাতির উন্নতির জন্য কোন পরিকল্পনা আছে, তা দয়া করে বলবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : ভাল রকমের ষাঁড় আনা হবে এবং যাতে ভাল গরু উৎপন্ন হয় তার জন্য চেষ্টা করা হবে। তাছাড়া যাতে সন্তোষজনক অবস্থা এদেশের গরুগুলির হয় তার জন্য ব্যবস্থা করা হবে।

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJEE : গরুর খাবারের ভাল ব্যবস্থা করা এবং ভাল ষাঁড়ের ব্যবস্থা করা এই দুই উপায় মাত্রই গোজাতির উন্নতি সম্বন্ধে মন্ত্রীমহাশয় অবগত আছেন। কোথা থেকে ষাঁড় আনেন, এটা মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া করে বলবেন কি? Good breeding সম্বন্ধে কি মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের আর কি কোন পরিকল্পনা আছে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : এ সম্বন্ধে পরিকল্পনা আছে এবং তার ব্যবস্থাও করা হচ্ছে।

Janab ABUL HASHEM : মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলছেন অন্য দেশ থেকে ষাঁড় আনয়ন করা হবে। কিন্তু দেশে যে ষাঁড়গুলো আছে সেগুলো যাতে ইচ্ছামত বলদ না করা হয়, তার কি কোন ব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : এখানকার যে ষাঁড় আছে তাদের বলদ করলে কোন ক্ষতি হবে না। কারণ এখানকার সেই ষাঁড় ভাল নয়। যাতে উৎকৃষ্ট বাছুর হয় তার জন্য অন্য Province থেকে ষাঁড় আনা দরকার হবে।

Janab ABUL HASHEM : আমি আমার ব্যক্তিগত অভিজ্ঞতা হতে জানি যে বিদেশী ষাঁড় বাংলাদেশের সর্বত্র ছড়ান সম্ভব হয়নি। যে পর্যন্ত বিদেশী ষাঁড় দেশ ছেয়ে ফেলা না যায় সে পর্যন্ত হৃষ্টপুষ্ট দেশী ষাঁড়গুলিকে ইচ্ছামত বলদ না করা হয় তার বন্দোবস্ত করা হচ্ছে কি না? যেমন দুগ্ধবতী গাভী রক্ষার ব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে তেমনি যে সমস্ত বাছুর ভাল ষাঁড় হতে পারে তাদের রক্ষা করবার কোন ব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে কি না?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : এ সমস্তই বিবেচনা করা হবে।

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলেছেন পরিকল্পনা করা হচ্ছে কিন্তু আজ এক বৎসরের উপর তাঁর মন্ত্রিত্ব হ'ল এর ভেতর কি পরিকল্পনা হ'ল, সেটা জানতে পারি কি?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NANTH PANJA: সময়মত জানতে পারবেন। যেমন মহাশয় নিজেই জানেন, কালকের কনফারেন্সে উপস্থিত ছিলেন সেখানে কি কি পরিকল্পনা হচ্ছে বা না হচ্ছে হাউসেও বলা হয়েছে এ সম্বন্ধে। ইতিপূর্বে বহু ষাড় আনা হয়েছে এবং এই এসেম্ব্লীতেও বলা হয়েছে সেই ষাড় প্রত্যেক জেলায় এক এক লোক্যালিটীতে দেওয়া হয় এবং যাদের হাতে ষাড় দেওয়া হয় তাদের মাসিক ১৫৲টাকা করে ঐগুলির খাবার খরচ বাবদ দেওয়া হয়। সেই রকম ভাবে আরও ষাড় আনা হবে এবং দেওয়া হবে এবং তাছাড়া হরিণ ঘাটায় ষাড় এলে যাতে ভাল বাছুর হয় তার ব্যবস্থা করা হবে।

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: মন্ত্রীমহাশয় তো কেবল আনা হবে, দেওয়া হবে এই সবই বলছেন,--তিনি কয়টী ষাড় বিলি করেছেন--হরিণঘাটায়-ই বা কয়টী দিয়েছেন, আর সেখানে বর্ত্তমানে আছে কয়টী, সেটা তিনি বলবেন কি?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the honourable member should not dilate on this subject, because it is beyond the scope of this question.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: আমাদের দেশে আগে যে ব্যবস্থা ছিল ধনী লোকেরা ভাল ভাল ষাড় ধর্ম্মের নামে জনকল্যাণের জন্য উৎসর্গ করতেন, গভর্ণমেণ্টের সেই রকম কোন পরিকল্পনা আছে কি পুরাণ সামাজিক নিয়ম চালু করার?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: সমাজই তার ব্যবস্থা করবে।

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: একথা কি সত্যি যে আজ পর্য্যন্ত গো-জাতির উন্নতিকল্পে হরিণঘাটায় যে ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে তাতে গো আমদানীর ব্যবস্থা করা হয়নি?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: শীঘ্রই আনা হবে।

Sri KANAI LAL DE: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় জানাবেন কি--হরিণঘাটায় যে ষাড় আমদানি করা হয়েছিল, তার মধ্যে কতকগুলি বলদ আনা হয়েছে বলে দেখা যাচ্ছে এবং সেই বলদগুলি চুঁচুড়া কৃষিক্ষেত্রে পাঠান হয়েছে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: কোথায়?

Sri KANAI LAL DE: এই ২৪-পরগণাতে।

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: আমার আমলে ঐ রকম কোন ঘটনা হয় নাই। যদি হয়ে থাকে ত, আগে হয়েছে।

Sri KANAI LAL DE: এই সম্প্রতি হয়েছে।

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: ও রকম কিছু হয় নাই।

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: যখন গো আমদানী করা সম্ভব হ'ল না তখন এখানকার গোগুলি সেখানে পাঠানোর ব্যবস্থা করবেন কি?

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow this question.

Expenditure on "Grow More Food" schemes.

*27. **Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state—

(a) the amount that has been spent every year on "Grow More Food" schemes over the period from 1943-44 to 1947-48—

(i) in undivided Bengal, and

(ii) within the area that now comprises West Bengal;

(b) the increase in production, if any, of (A) paddy, and (B) poultry in—

(i) undivided Bengal, and

(ii) the area that now comprises West Bengal;

(c) the amount of money out of the total expenditure on "Grow More Food" schemes that has been recovered from Government of India year by year, from 1943-44 to 1947-48; and

(d) the machinery that the Government have at their disposal for assessing the results of "Grow More Food" schemes?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: (a) The total gross amount spent on various "Grow More Food" schemes is as follows:—

	Rs.
1943-44	99,90,000
1944-45	65,45,000
1945-46	84,22,000
1946-47	84,02,000
1947-48—	
From 1st April to 14th August, 1947 ..	33,62,000
From 15th August, 1947, to 31st March, 1948 ..	29,12,000

The above amounts include expenditure on all types of "Grow More Food" schemes not being restricted to those which are concerned with increased production of cereals only.

(i) The above figures except for the period 15th August, 1947, to 31st March, 1948, are all for undivided Bengal.

(ii) It is not possible to show separate figures for areas that now comprise West Bengal for the pre-Partition period, as many of the relevant records are not available now.

(b) (A) On the basis of certain *a priori* estimates increases may be calculated as follows:—

	Maunds.
1943-44	1,700,000
1944-45	975,000
1945-46	556,000
1946-47	528,000
1947-48	Result not yet assessed.

It may be noted, however, that variations in certain unpredictable factors, e.g., rainfall and weather conditions, may have prevented these estimates from being realised in practice.

(B) Regarding poultry, a statement is placed on the Table.

(i) The above figures are for undivided Bengal.

(ii) It is not possible to give the figures separately for the areas that now comprise West Bengal, as most of the relevant papers containing relevant information are not available here, after the Partition.

	Rs.
(c) 1943-44	4,76,135
1944-45	4,04,589
1945-46	12,69,423
1946-47	14,91,005
1947-48	About 8 lakhs of rupees have been provisionally adjusted in the account of the Government of India. Final adjustment has not yet been made.

(*d*) The supervising staff of the Directorate of Agriculture at present assess the results of the "Grow More Food" schemes. It has been decided by Government to introduce a system of achievement audit in respect of "Grow More Food" schemes by an agency independent of the extension staff of the Agricultural Directorate, if possible. The details of the machinery for undertaking an audit are now being settled.

Statement referred to in sub-clause (B) of clause (b) of starred question No. 27.

	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.
Strength of flocks at Poultry Multiplication Centre.	1,023	1,628	2,172	1,777	7,149
Improved birds sold ..	279	231	451	435	1,288
Improved birds distributed free.	301	56	512	Nil	Nil
Improved eggs laid ..	13,108	13,811	24,736	11,991	39,629
Improved eggs sold for breeding.	2,588	3,519	6,248	5,068	19,794
Improved eggs distributed free for breeding.	3,395	852	Nil	Nil	Nil

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in what schemes other than cereals and poultry, is the money spent?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: Rabi crops, fodder crops, etc.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the amounts that are spent only for cereals?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: No, these figures are not available.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in reference to answer (*b*), what he means by "*a priori* estimates"? Does he mean that his estimates are prepared in the office of the Director of Agriculture?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: It means that if we give good seeds, then we would get two maunds per bigha or six maunds per acre increased produce. By this calculation these figures are assessed.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it will be correct to presume from his answer that his figures do not relate to actual results obtained but what would have been obtained if calculated at the rate at which it has been mentioned by the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: Yes.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has ever tried to find out as to what has been the actual increase of cereals by reference to figures for previous years as a result of expenditure on "Grow More Food" schemes?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: অধিক খাদ্যশস্য ফলাও পরিকল্পনাতে উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি সম্পর্কে "মূল" হিসাবের ভিত্তিতে যে হিসাব দেওয়া হ'য়েছে তাহা অধিক খাদ্য উৎপাদন সম্পর্কে বাস্তব ফলাফল নহে। Indian Research Instituteএর হিসাবে যে সব figure দেওয়া হয়েছে তার কোন একটি মূল সূত্রকে ভিত্তি করে হিসাব করলে যে সব figure পাওয়া যেতে পারে এটা তাহাই।

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: অতিরিক্ত প্রশ্ন স্যার, মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলবেন কি, যে টাকা ব্যয় করা হচ্ছে এবং তদ্দ্বারা যে ফল পাওয়া যাচ্ছে তাহা হইতে কি ইহা বুঝা যায় না যে, অধিক "খাদ্যশস্য ফলাও" পরিকল্পনাদিতে কোনই কাজ হইতেছে না?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: কোন কাজ হ'চ্ছে না, একথা বলা চলে না, কারণ জমিতে জল ও সার দিলে যে শস্য উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি হয় সে বিষয় সন্দেহ নাই। উৎপাদন কতটা বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে সেটা হয়ত' প্রশ্নের উত্তরে কথা নেই। তবে উৎপাদন যে বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে এটা নিঃসন্দেহ। সার দিলে ফসল উৎপাদন বাড়বেই।

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: অতিরিক্ত প্রশ্ন স্যার, জমিতে যে সার দেওয়া হয় তা যদি ভালভাবে প্রয়োগ করা না হয় তাহ'লে সে ফসল কখনও ভালভাবে উৎপন্ন হ'তে পারে না, সুতরাং মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের এমন কোন machinery আছে কিনা—যাতে ক'রে ফসলের উন্নতি বা অবনতি হচ্ছে কিনা জানতে পারা যায়?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: আমাদের সেখানে extension staff আছে, Agricultural Officer আছে, তারা দেখে, এবং তারা যে report দেয়, তা থেকে বোঝা যায় যে যদি ঠিক সময় বারিপাত হয় এবং আবহাওয়াজনিত অন্য কোনপ্রকার ব্যাঘাত না ঘটে তাহ'লে শস্য যে বৃদ্ধি হবে সে বিষয় সন্দেহ নাই। এ বছর monsoon খুব দেরীতে হ'য়েছিল এবং শেষকালে অতিবৃষ্টি এবং শিলাবৃষ্টির ফলে ফসলের প্রভূত ক্ষতি হয়। কাজেই সার দিলেই যে শস্য বৃদ্ধি হয় না, এ কথা ঠিক নয়। জমিতে ঠিক সময় উপযুক্ত সার ও জল দিলে শস্য যে বৃদ্ধি পাবে সে বিষয়ে সন্দেহ নাই।

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: অতিরিক্ত প্রশ্ন স্যার, poultry সম্বন্ধে যে সমস্ত figure দেওয়া হ'য়েছে তাতে বলা হ'য়েছে যে Poultry Multiplication Centreএ কত poultry আছে। কিন্তু আমার প্রশ্ন ছিল Undivided Bengal এবং the area that now comprises West Bengalএ বর্তমানে কত বেড়েছে—তার কোন figure দেওয়া হয় নাই।

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: আমাদের নিকট যা figure আছে তাই বর্তমানে দেওয়া হ'য়েছে। আমাদের ফার্মেতে কিছু কিছু বেড়েছে তাই দেখতে পাচ্ছি। ১৯৪৩-৪৪ সালে ১,০২৩টি ছিল এবং ১৯৪৭-৪৮ সালে সেটা বেড়ে ৭,১৪৯টি হ'য়েছে।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Supplementary Question, Sir, মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলবেন কি যে এ বিষয়ে তাঁর কোন ব্যক্তিগত অভিজ্ঞতা আছে কি?

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow this question. It is not relevant. You are putting a question about the personal knowledge of the Hon'ble Minister. He is responsible only for his department.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the source of his information as to how poultry should be kept and improved?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: আমাদের Poultry Officers আছে যাদের poultry সম্বন্ধে অভিজ্ঞতা আছে; তাদের কাছ থেকে আমরা জেনে থাকি।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if poultry keeping in Government farms is a profitable business proposition or that is a perpetual losing concern?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: না, এটা losing concern নয়।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Are we to understand that Government is getting profits out of poultry keeping?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: Governmentএর সেখানে research হয়, সেজন্য তাতে লাভ হয় না, কিন্তু যদি কেবল poultry'র business করা হ'তো তাহ'লে লাভ হ'তো।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has been in a position to prepare any remedy for the poultry diseases, like *ranikhet*?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: সে সম্বন্ধে investigation হচ্ছে এবং তাদের injection or vaccine দেওয়া হয়।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether vaccination for *ranikhet* has been successful in any degree?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: Yes; to a certain extent.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: অতিরিক্ত প্রশ্ন; মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলবেন কি যে উনি যে এখানে বললেন যে এক হাজার থেকে সাত হাজারের মত বেড়ে গিয়েছে সেটা আমাদেরই প্রচেষ্টায় বেড়ে গিয়েছে না নূতন ক'রে কেনা হয়েছে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: নূতন কেনা হয়নি।

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলবেন কি যে "Grow more food" পরিকল্পনা আছে তার সম্বন্ধে যে বিভাগ আছে তাতে যে কোটি কোটি টাকা ব্যয় হ'য়েছে তার তুলনায় এ পর্যন্ত যে শস্যবৃদ্ধি ফল পাওয়া গিয়েছে তা নগণ্য কিনা?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: না, তা ঠিক বলা যায় না, কারণ যদি একেবারে না দেওয়া হ'তো তাহলে যেটা পেয়েছে সেটাও পাওয়া যেতো না। আমাদের এই fertility maintenanceএর জন্য এই টাকা দিতে হবে, তা না দিলে আমাদের যেটা ছিল সেটাও মিলবে না।

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলবেন কি, যে এ সম্বন্ধে সরকারের কাছে কোন অঙ্ক আছে কি না, যা থেকে প্রমাণ করা যায় যে কি উন্নতি হয়েছে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: আমাদের farmএ যা দেখা যায় তাতে বোঝা যায় যে fertiliser দিলে পরে যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে উন্নতি হয়, বিঘা প্রতি ২ মন করে বেশী হয়, যেখানে ৬ মন হচ্ছিল সেখানে আট মন হবে।

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলবেন কি যে জন-সাধারণের যে সাধারণ জমি তাতে "Grow more food" schemeএ বেশী কিছু হয় না কেন?

(No reply.)

Sri KANAI LAL DE : মন্ত্রীমহাশয় যে ব্যয়ের হিসাব দিয়েছেন, বলতে পারেন কি যে ঐ টাকাটা মধ্যে কতটা কর্মচারীর প্রতি ব্যয় এবং কতটা সার ইত্যাদির জন্য ব্যয় হয়েছে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : ও সব figure আমাদের কাছে এখন নাই, I want notice.

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJI : মন্ত্রীমহাশয় এখানে দেখিয়েছেন যে ৩৯,৬২৯টি ডিম পেয়েছেন আর বিক্রী হয়েছে ১৯,৭৯৪। এই যে ডিম গুলি পাড়া হয়েছিল সবই কি fertile eggs, না তা নয় তার কিছু হিসাব দিতে পারেন?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : না সমস্ত fertile নয়, অনেক লোকসানও গিয়েছে। লোকসান দিয়ে এই জিনিষটা হয়েছে।

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE : মন্ত্রীমহাশয় অবগত আছেন কি যে যেরকম স্কুলে পড়লেই পরীক্ষা পাশ হয় না সেই রকম সার দিলেই ফসল বাড়তে নাও পারে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : সার যদি ঠিক প্রকৃতভাবে দেওয়া হয় তাহলে ফসল বাড়বেই বাড়বে।

Sri BIMBL COMAR GHOSE : মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় অবগত আছেন কি যে "Grow more food" schemeএ যে সমস্ত টাকা ব্যয় হচ্ছে তা ঠিক উপযুক্ত মত ব্যয় হচ্ছে না বলে প্রায়ই নষ্ট হচ্ছে?

Mr. SPEAKER: No; no. I can't allow this question.

Sri KANAI LAL DE : মন্ত্রীমহাশয় জানাবেন কি যে বাংলা দেশে যে পরিমাণ খাদ্যের অভাব আছে এবং উনি যে পরিমাণ খাদ্য বৃদ্ধির হিসাব দিয়েছেন, তাতে কয় বৎসর লাগবে সেই খাদ্যের অভাব পূরণ করতে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : কয়েক বৎসর যে লাগবে সেটাতে কোন সন্দেহ নেই।

Sri KANAI LAL DE : মন্ত্রীমহাশয় তাহলে ফসল বৃদ্ধি এবং উৎপাদনের জন্য আরো কিছু তৎপর ব্যবস্থা এবং কার্য্যকরী ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করবার কল্পনা করেছেন কি?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : হ্যাঁ, আমাদের অনেক scheme আছে; যে সকল পুষ্করিণী মজে গিয়েছে তার উদ্ধার করা এবং ছোট খাটো নালা করে দেওয়া; এই রকম সব short scheme আছে এবং সেগুলি করা হচ্ছে।

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJI : অতিরিক্ত প্রশ্ন; মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলেছেন সার প্রয়োগ করলে ফল নিশ্চয়ই হয়। তাহলে "Grow more food" schemeএ মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি বিবেচনা করছেন যে যা খরচ হয় তার অধিকাংশ খরচ যদি সার প্রয়োগে ব্যয় হয় তাহ'লে ভাল হয়? এবং এজন্য Compost সার—এ সমস্ত townএর municipality থেকে দেবার তার কিছু পরিকল্পনা আছে কি?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : হ্যাঁ, আছে এবং সেই রকম করাও হচ্ছে।

Sri KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA : মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলবেন কি যে "Grow more food" schemeএর জন্য যে টাকা খরচ হয়েছে তার ভিতর পতিত জমি আবাদ করবার জন্য কোন টাকা ধরা হয়েছিল কিনা?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: I want notice.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE : মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলবেন কি যে যদি সার দিলে ফসল বাড়ে এবং ১৯৪৩-৪৪ সালে যখন এক কোটি টাকা খরচ করে ১৭ লক্ষ মন ফসল পাওয়া গিয়াছিল তখন ১৯৪৬-৪৭ সালে এই ৮৪ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করে ফসল এত কমে গেল কেন?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : ১৯৪২-৪৩ সালে দুর্ভিক্ষ হয়েছিল এবং সে বৎসর জমি সকল পড়ে থাকার দরুণ সাধারণতঃ উর্বরা শক্তি বাড়ে এবং তারপর বৎসর বৃষ্টি হয়েছিল এবং তার ফলে bumper crops হয়েছিল। এবং তার পর বৎসরে আবার অনাবৃষ্টি হয় এবং তার দরুণ ফসল কমে যায়।

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJI : মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের কাছে কি হিসাব আছে যে এই ফসল বাড়ানোর খাতে কর্মচারীদের বেতনে কত ব্যয় হয় এবং সার প্রয়োগে কত ব্যয় হয়।

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : I want notice.

Janab ABUL HASHEM : মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি জানাবেন যে তার departmentএ fertility experimentএর দ্বারা এটা কি জানা গিয়েছে যে রাসায়নিক সার প্রয়োগ করলে জমির ক্ষতি হয়?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : অধিকাংশ লোকের মত হচ্চে যে fertiliser ব্যবহার করলে জমির উৎপাদিকা শক্তি বাড়ে। কতক লোক বলে যে এটাতে জমির উৎপাদিকা শক্তি কমে যায়।

Janab ABUL HASHEM : এই যে কতক লোক বলে যে জমির উৎপাদিকা শক্তি কমে যায়, এই কতক লোকেরা কি expert না laymen.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA RAY : তারা মানুষ।

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : দু দলেতেই expert আছে, কিন্তু বেশীর ভাগ expertএরই মত হচ্চে যে fertiliser দিলে পরেতে শস্য বাড়ে এবং জমিও ভাল হয়।

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJI : মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি অবগত আছেন যে এই মাত্র বললেন উনি যে fertiliser ব্যবহার করলে জমির ভাল হয় কিন্তু fertiliserএর সঙ্গে যদি organic matter না থাকে তাহলে জমির সর্ব্বনাশ হয়।

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : না, আমি সেটা স্বীকার করি না।

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE : মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলিবেন কি যে Government ইহা বিবেচনা করিয়া দেখিবেন কিনা যে কয়েক বৎসর "Grow more food" schemeএ কোন খরচ না করিয়া ফসল কমানো যায় কি না?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : ও রকম দুঃসাহস করতে আমরা রাজি নই।

Janab ABUL HASHEM : মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলবেন কি—যেটা তাঁর কাছে আমরা জানতে চেয়েছি—যে আমাদের গভর্ণমেণ্টের সরকারী experiment করার যে ব্যবস্থা আছে সেই ব্যবস্থার মধ্য দিয়ে গভর্ণমেণ্ট কি সে বিষয়ে কিছু অবগত আছেন যে রাসায়নিক সারের দ্বারা জমি ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হয়, না জমির উৎকর্ষ হয়?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : জমির উৎকর্ষ হয় এটাই এখানকার মত।

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJI : মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় জানেন কি যে পৃথিবীর সকল বিশেষজ্ঞ—এবং তার মধ্যে ভারতীয় বিশেষজ্ঞগণও আছেন—সকলেই একমত হয়ে একথা বলেন যে fertiliser ব্যবহার করতে গেলে তার সঙ্গে compost manure—সেটা একটা organic manure—দেওয়া একান্ত প্রয়োজনীয়?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : যেটা প্রয়োজন তা চাষীরা দিয়ে থাকে।

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJI : মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় জানেন কি যে চাষীরা গোবর সমস্ত পুড়িয়ে ফেলে এবং compost প্রচুর পরিমাণে প্রস্তুত করে না।

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : চাষীরা পোড়াবার পরেও সার দেওয়ার জন্য যথেষ্ট রাখে।

Sri HARIPADA CHATTERJI : মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় জানেন কি যে যথাযথ খাদি fertilise দেওয়ায় জমির ক্ষতি হয়েছে?

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no, I cannot allow it.

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI : মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় জানেন কি যে Ammonium Sulphate দেওয়ায় জমি খারাপ হয়ে যাচ্ছে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : না, আমি জানি না।

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI : আমি ডায়মণ্ড হারবার সবডিভিসনে দেখেছি যে যে সমস্ত জমিতে Ammonium Sulphate দেওয়া হয়েছে সে সমস্ত জমির প্রডাকশনই লোনা হয়ে যাচ্ছে।

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Sir, if all the gentlemen here know so much about agriculture will they kindly make up a brochure so that we can follow it?

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE FOR 1948-49.

General Discussion.

Janab A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Finance Minister, however competent and patriotic, cannot prepare a budget which will satisfy all sections of the people. But unfortunately the budget which was presented to this House for the year 1949-50 has the distinction to receive the disapproval of the whole House with the solitary exception of the honourable member representing the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. The severest criticism of the budget came from the supporters of the Ministry. Sir, if words do really convey the considered opinion of the speakers, it can safely be inferred that the House has practically rejected the budget. From the newspapers comment it is also clear that the people outside have the same view in respect of the budget.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Supplementary Budget presented to this House for its approval, bears the same character as the general budget, and as such it has little or no value, so far as the people are concerned, but it helps only to improve and expand the bureaucratic administrative machinery of the Government. Sir, most of the criticism offered to the general budget would apply to the Supplementary Budget with equal force. Sir, I would therefore refrain from repeating what I said and heard during the general discussion of the original budget, but would only refer to those items of expenditure which appear to me to be astoundingly extravagant.

Sir, let me begin with top-heavy general administration of the truncated West Bengal with the particular reference to the Publicity Department, general increase in the cost of Police Administration, State Transport Service, maintenance and use of Government vehicles. Sir, in parliamentary power politics parties generally make extravagant promises in their election manifesto, but unfortunately as we see now the party in power has excelled everybody and to the utter surprise and discomfort of the people, they have come out with a total negation of their utterances. Sir, the country would have supported the supplementary demands if it did convey any message of hope for the toiling masses in whose name we all swear. Sir, in the original budget the House voted Rs. 8,10,000 for Publicity Branch of the Government. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has come out with an additional demand of Rs. 3,09,000 for the same object. In the explanatory memorandum it is said that the increase is due to centralisation of publicity work of all departments under Home (Publicity) Department and this would result in the corresponding saving in other departments of the publicity expenditure. I hope, Sir, the Minister-in-charge of the Department while moving the demand will explain to the House how the actual

saving would be effected, but, Sir, here I may be permitted to tell th House that the money spent on publicity and propaganda would be a shee waste of public money. Sir, so long as the National Government is unabl to secure a spontaneous support and confidence of the people by showin a genuine and sincere desire for improving the living condition of th people, publicity of the activities of a Government which does not gover but merely rules with repressive laws and ordinances, showing a little o no concern with the sufferings of the people only help to increase it unpopularity.

Sir, Rs. 11,13,000 was provided in the original budget for dietary charges for Central Jails, an additional demand of Rs. 1,93,000 has been made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the same purpose. Let us hope Sir, the money asked for has been spent for the purpose for which it was intended.

Sir, a demand of Rs. 34,36,000 has been made for the police. In the explanatory memorandum justification of the expenditure has been attempted. Under "B—Superintendence" we find the creation of two additional posts of Deputy Inspectors-General. Sir, I would request the Government to tell the House the number of Deputy Inspectors-General we had in the united Bengal and their present strength. Sir, if we go on adding to the number of these superior posts we do not know when and how we are going to effect economy in the cost of our top heavy administration.

Sir, under "C—District Executive Force" we find the appointment of temporary staff for anti-smuggling. I asked the public to judge how far these temporary anti-smuggling staff have succeeded in stopping smuggling. Sir, on principle it is bad to leave this work to the temporary staff, to whom the temptation is very great. The works should have been entrusted to permanent staff of approved honesty. Sir, experiment was made in the case of Civil Supplies Department to check corruption by temporary staff and it proved a dismal failure.

Sir, we find a provision of Rs. 60,00,000 in the Supplementary Budget for State Transport Service. Sir, I welcome this new venture of the Government and it is no doubt a right move in the right direction, but I might be permitted to sound a note of caution to the Government so that they might become more vigilant to see that the State Transport Service is run on sound business line and that the major portion of the earning or I might say the entire earning might not be consumed as working expenses and ultimately shown as loss to the department.

Sir, although the money spent on refugees is recoverable from the Centre, I would request the Government to be very particular about each item of expenditure, as the amount involved is very large and particularly because there is a big loophole for fraud.

Sir, with regard to the provision for maintenance of Government vehicles, Government already possess a large fleet of vehicles and we find in the Supplementary Budget that they have acquired a few more and a demand of over a lakh of rupees has been made for that. Sir, we do not know whether these vehicles are properly looked after and maintained, because our experience was not very happy in the past. Another thing I would like to know, Sir, in this connection from the Government is whether proper check is maintained to see that these vehicles are properly used, to be more clear whether these vehicles are always used in the public interest, or for the purpose for which they are not intended.

Sir, lastly I would like to bring to the notice of the House through you, Sir, that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has deviated from the age-long practice of this House. Sir, it is a privilege of this House to examine the various items of expenditure provided for in the budget through its elected Committee of the House. Sir, although the financial year 1948-49 is practically over the Hon'ble Finance Minister did not think it fit to call

a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee of the House and allow them to scrutinise the various items of expenditure for which money was provided and also to look into the objection of the Auditor-General. Sir, this betrays want of confidence of the Ministry in the people and their representatives. Sir, we all know the Original Budget or the Supplementary Budget will be passed in the House by the magic influence of the party machinery of the Ministry whether they have the support and the confidence of the people or not. Sir, I hope I shall be pardoned, if I sound a note of warning to the Government that they should not measure their strength by the number of votes they get in their favour in this House. Sir, before I resume my seat I may be permitted to repeat the oft-quoted dictum "you can deceive some people for some time but not all people for all times".

Janab SYED BADRUDDUJA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during general discussion of the budget we have already anticipated most of the arguments that would be advanced this afternoon. As a matter of fact supplementary estimates only show the difference between the original estimates for 1948-49 and the revised estimates. Sir, we do not object to certain provisions that have been made under heads "Medical", "Public Health", "Industries", "Pre-partition Payments", and the "Damodar Valley Project". These are important provisions conducive to the welfare of the province, but I do not understand the reason why "General Administration" once again should consume another 13 lakhs in spite of the fact that about 1,68,00,000 rupees and odds has already been provided under that head in the budget. Then again the "Police" under which we have already provided 366 lakhs and odds another 34 lakhs is necessary to meet the increasing demand under that head. Coming to "Extraordinary Charges in India" that alone accounts for nearly Rs. 1,10,45,000. These are the three items, and one more item, to which my esteemed friend Janab Abdur Rahman has already referred is the State Transport scheme. With regard to the last item I doubt the wisdom at this juncture of providing State Transport. Sir, when the province is going through a financial crisis, when we cannot provide enough money for our nation-building departments, when we cannot encourage intensive drive for agricultural improvement, I do not think we should have risked an experiment like this which has in my opinion no very bright future. It is no use frittering away public money on ill-digested schemes like this. Instead, we should pool all our resources on schemes which have got a productive value of their own. True, there is congestion in traffic; true, there is need for expansion of motor transport: it would have been better, however, if Government had entrusted all these to private agencies who are plying buses and are concerned with transport services in the city and they might have thereby relieved traffic congestion to a great extent, instead of undertaking this scheme which has no very great possibility in future. We cannot afford to spend so much money on this scheme at this juncture.

Coming to "Extraordinary Charges in India", Sir, it is an extraordinary thing which has never been properly accounted for. Since after the inception of the Civil Supplies Department, year in and year out, huge sums of money have been provided in the budget for purchasing schemes and the Legislature has been kept absolutely in the dark about the transactions that have gone on behind the scene. We do not know on what prices Government purchased wheat and wheat products, and we do not know on what prices they were sold under the contract. We know, however, that mismanagement and bungling—and we hear whispers of corruption and bribery as well—are responsible for the losses that occurred in the dark. They are not accounted for, but adjusted perhaps out of time or written off, and I do not know how can the country bear such losses specially when private agencies do not sustain any loss on such transactions. I do not see why Government with their vast machinery and organisation at their disposal would be sustaining huge losses on that account. For the last

four or five years, from the year 1943-44 right up to date, there must have been something wrong somewhere in the working of the Department. I would therefore request the Finance Minister with his superior knowledge of the department to enlighten this House on this point.

Then, Sir, I come to "Police". I was referring the other day to the provisions made in the year of August disturbances, i.e., 1942-43, when the whole country was seething with discontent, when there was an attempt to dislocate the machinery of the Government and when from the topmost position to the lowest Congressites all over the country were put in jail and there were widespread disturbances in Ballia, Midnapore and other places. Even at that juncture it was not necessary to provide more than 248 lakhs and odds and that was for united Bengal. But poor West Bengal today with only 70 per cent. of the revenues of univided Bengal and 36 per cent. of her population has now to provide not merely 366 lakhs in the current year's budget but even more than that, an additional sum of Rs. 34 lakhs has been provided in the revised. Sir, I do not want to discuss what has been provided in the next year's budget. I do not know how, when you are talking of balancing the budget, when you are talking of providing more and more money for the nation-building departments, you can justify this provision under the head "Police".

Coming to General Administration, Sir, this is another item which has engaged the serious attention of the public outside as also of members in this Legislature. Sir, the estimate under this head in 1942-43 was about Rs. 1,63,00,000 and today in the year of Our Lord 1948-49, Rs. 1,68,68,000 has been provided for West Bengal and in the revised there is a further increase under that head of another 13 lakhs.

Out of a total sum of Rs. 6,45,89,000 that has been provided in the Supplementary Budget, Sir, by far the largest sum has been made under heads "Extraordinary Charges", "Police" and "General Administration". For secret service also an additional sum of Rs. 1,05,000 has been provided. I do not know what is this secret service. In the face of the disturbances that occurred in Basirhat, in the face of the growing menace which is threatening the existence of society at the present moment I do think there is justification in the existing unsettled condition of the country for more police vigilance, and that the forces of destruction, disruption and revolution certainly call for extra provision under "Police". But they have not justified their existence nor the necessity for further provisions by their inaction, inefficiency and inability to probe into the root cause of the troubles.

In the end, I would request the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to enlighten this House on the various items under which provisions have been made in the Supplementary Budget, more especially the provisions under the heads "Police", "Extraordinary Charges" and "General Administration".

Janab ABDUL WAHID SARKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, late presentation of supplementary estimate has on occasions more than one been adversely criticised on the floor of this House. It is quite clear that rules do not contemplate inclusion of expenditure already incurred in supplementary estimates, but this is exactly what is going to be done in the present case. I do hope that the practice of presenting supplementary estimates, either in the monsoon session or December session will be strictly followed in future.

Sir, the heavy demand of Rs. 1,10,45,000 representing the loss incurred for selling wheat and wheat products at a price lower than that fixed by the Government of India, cannot be supported. There does not appear any good reason why the prices of those commodities were not revised by the Civil Supplies Department in consonance with the rates fixed by the Government of India. If this had been done in proper time, this heavy drain on the provincial revenue could have been avoided. It appears that the selling rates were fixed by the Government of India in the beginning of 1948, but

no steps were taken by the department concerned, to revise the rates during the whole year. This is really unconscionable, to say the least of it. One can certainly expect a little more activity from the responsible officers of a full fledged department.

There is another demand for Rs. 5 lakhs under the head "Public Health". This increase is said to be due to provision having been made for anti-plague measures. One fails to account for the absence of a similar provision in the original budget, when as a matter of fact many plague cases were reported in Calcutta last year, necessitating vigilance and suitable provisions being adopted in the budget. However, it is better late than never and in that view of the matter, we have to agree to the demand, though I trust the department concerned will please note this for their future guidance.

With these few words I beg to resume my seat.

Sri BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, I had been studying the supplementary demands which the Hon'ble Finance Minister presented the other day. The impression which a perusal of the supplementary demands as also of the budget demands left in my mind was this that the general budgetary structure of this province has not undergone any appreciable change since the attainment of independence. On the other hand, Sir, it might be stated that the content and character of our public expenditure has suffered some deterioration inasmuch as with about three-fourths of the revenue of undivided Bengal and one-third its population, we have not been able to increase—not to say, appreciably increase—the share of expenditure devoted to what are commonly known as nation-building departments. Even in the supplementary demands you might have noticed that out of a demand of Rs. 6½ crores, say about 26 lakhs or only about 4 per cent. are accounted for by these nation-building departments. What, therefore, Sir, I would like to present to you for your consideration today is a brief review of our public expenditure—a brief analytical review—and this refers both to supplementary and original demands because I want to show to you and the honourable members the direction in which the expenditure of this province is moving.

I would take the figures for 1946-47 as of undivided Bengal and of 1948-49 and of 1949-50 and I will refer you to some of the important heads. If you take the figures for these years—the figures refer, of course, to 1946-47 actuals, 1948-49 revised and 1949-50 estimates—the comparison is not quite equitable for reasons I shall presently state, but for the present we might take these figures. For General Administration the proportion was 1946-47—7·6, 1948-49—5·9, 1949-50—6·7; Administration of Justice 1946-47—3·3, 1948-49—2·8, 1949-50—2·9; Police 1946-47—11·2, 1948-49—13·2, 1949-50—14; Education for those years 6·9, 8·6, 10·7; Public Health 3·0, 2·7, 2·3; Agriculture 4·9, 6·8, 7·9; Veterinary 0·3, 0·3, 0·3; Co-operative 0·5, 0·3, 0·6; Industries 1·0; 1·6, 2·8; Extraordinary Charges 14·7, 15·7, 12·4. If you take, Sir, the nation-building departments together, then the proportion in 1946-47 was 24·2, in 1948-49, 29·6 and in 1949-50, 34·5. On the face of it, it might be stated that there has been a fairly large increase in the expenditure of these departments in 1949-50, but the comparison is not equitable for the reason that these expenditures are influenced by the grants that were obtained from the Central Government and with a view to make the comparison more equitable, it would be advisable to see what proportion of our expenditure—ordinary expenditure—without taking into consideration the grants received from the Government of India is spent in the various departments. If you take these figures, Sir, that is, without the development expenditure, you will find that in most of the cases the proportions have remained the same, particularly in the nation-building departments, whereas in the other departments the proportions in the latter years have increased.

Now, one or two examples will illustrate my point. For example, the proportion for General Administration was 6·6 in 1948-49, 7·8 in 1949-50 and it was 7·6 in 1946-47. Take Police, it is 14·5 in 1948-49 and 16·2 in 1949-50. Take all the nation-building departments together, it is 25·7 in 1949-50 and 23·6 in 1948-49, but in the one case, in 1949-50, it refers to estimates and if you take the figures of estimates in 1948-49 the proportion is 27 per cent. Now, in all these comparisons what I should like you to remember, Sir, is this that whenever a budget is presented to us, we compare the estimates of the ensuing year with the revised estimates of the current year and the comparison generally works out in favour of the ensuing year. But a study of the budget figures shows that always the revised is lower than the estimates, particularly in regard to nation-building departments and the actuals are lower than the revised, whereas in regard to the other departments, say for General Administration or Police, the tendency is just the other way round. If you take the estimates for 1948-49 and 1949-50 for nation-building departments, with the development expenditure the proportions would have worked out at 38·6 in 1948-49 and only 34·5 in 1949-50. So from that point of view it appears that the budget has been retrogressive. Now, Sir, that is a point that I should like you to remember. If you again take the cost of the revenue earning departments and refer in this context to the publication circulated by the Finance Department, namely, the "Provincial Rupee" which is really helpful, you will find that that cost has remained practically the same for 1946-47, 1948-49 and 1949-50.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose, I think in a supplementary demand there should not be a long discussion on general policy.

Sri BIMAL CHANDRA GHOSE: Sir, I quite appreciate your point of view. What I was trying to submit to you is this that in the supplementary demands if you work out the figures you will find that the amount that is devoted towards nation-building departments is very small but I did not want to say that because 4 per cent. of the expenditure in supplementary demand is devoted to nation-building departments, therefore that would be the correct assessment of the budget taken as a whole, and therefore I want to link the supplementary demand to the original demand in order to show what the character of the whole budget is. The supplementary demand without any relation to the original demand has no significance, and that is why I was trying to analyse our public expenditure with a view to make out a case in favour of an examination of our expenditure in certain departments. I was saying that the cost of the revenue earning departments also has remained the same. It used to be a point of criticism with us that the cost of administration in undivided Bengal's budget was very heavy, and if that criticism was true then, it remains virtually true even today. If that is so, the case for a consideration of our expenditure not by an officer of the Government but by some appropriate committee becomes urgent. We have had a publication circulated to us in which it is stated that a Government officer is enquiring into staff requirements. Now an officer of the Government certainly will not be entitled to examine any questions of policy. I may give you one or two illustrations which may be considered in this connection. For example, in the first place, about Secretariat practice; I do not know if honourable members are aware of the way in which the Secretariat works. We have here an increased demand for General Administration, and the way in which the Secretariat works is, Sir, very relevant; and the functioning of the Secretariat is generally what I may call—"administration by noting". A file starts, and a lower division clerk notes, then an upper division clerk, then an Assistant Secretary, then a Deputy Secretary, then if it is not disposed of, the Secretary and then if it goes to the Ministry, the Minister. Now, Sir, it is really a question which should be considered whether a practice like that should be continued even today or whether it should be changed, and if it can be changed with some advantage, whether certain

reduction in personnel can be effected that way. In the second place, take the present Secretariat and ministerial set-up. It should be considered whether the present set-up is quite logical. If you go by expenditure you will find that there are certain departments which spend quite a lot of money, say, about 2 or 3 crores of rupees, whereas there are other departments which are in charge of independent Ministers, which probably only spend a few lakhs. I do not mean to say that the work by itself is not important, e.g., Co-operation, Industries or Veterinary—that of course is under "Medical"—but there are some departments like that. They are really important unless we have sufficient money to spend for them. But if we have no money, then is it necessary to maintain the paraphernalia in their existing form? That is a thing which has to be considered, and I do not think that a Government officer can enquire into that question.

Now, Sir, these are things which I wanted to bring to your notice. I have spoken about the expenditure earmarked for nation-building departments. That is not quite sufficient. The mere fact that some monies have been allocated for nation-building departments does not mean necessarily that those monies are being well spent. Even today we have had a question answered on the Grow More Food scheme, and a lot of suspicion has been left in our mind as to whether the monies have been well spent. Not only have we to see that more money is allocated to the nation-building departments but we must also see to it that money is well spent. Of course that is a subject that I intend to go into when individual demands for grant will be taken up.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, I do not think I have much to say in reply to a general discussion of the Supplementary Budget, because all the honourable members spoke about specified subjects which may be discussed at the time of voting of grants. Mr. Abdur Rahman alone raised a point that we have not yet called a Public Accounts Committee. Sir, the time for calling a Public Accounts Committee relating to Accounts after August, 1947, has not come. In the period before August, 1947, it was the administration of the party to which Mr. Abdur Rahman belonged (pointing out the Opposition Benches) and it is not necessary for me to support or whitewash or point out the defects or otherwise of their accounts. The Auditor-General has decided that it is no use calling a Public Accounts Committee for the period relating to the account of the united Bengal.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

4—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 28,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "4—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

8—Provincial Excise.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,02,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" during the current year.

Sir, the circulated note will show why this extra amount is necessary under the head "8—Provincial Excise".

The motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy that a sum of Rs. 2,02,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

10—Forest.

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 8,61,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" during the current year.

মাননীয় সদস্যগণকে যে মুদ্রিত পুস্তিকা দেওয়া হইয়াছে তাহাতেই এই অধিক ব্যয়ের কারণ বর্ণিত আছে। প্রধান কারণ এই যে দামোদর ভ্যালি পরিকল্পনা প্রভৃতির জন্য অধিক পরিমাণ কাঠ ও তক্তা বন বিভাগ কর্তৃক সংগ্রহ এবং সরবরাহ করিতে হইয়াছে। আসামের সহিত সংযোগ স্থাপন উদ্দেশ্যে রেলপথ নির্মাণের জন্য sleeper সরবরাহ এবং কয়লার অভাব মিটাইবার জন্য দার্জিলিং এবং জলপাইগুড়ি জেলায় অধিক পরিমাণ জ্বালানি কাঠ ও কাঠকয়লা সরবরাহ ও ব্যয়বৃদ্ধি ঘটাইয়াছে। গত বৎসর বাজেটের আনুমানিক হিসাব পেশ করিবার সময় এই ব্যয়াধিক্য অনুমান করা সম্ভবপর হয় নাই।

এই প্রসঙ্গে ইহা উল্লেখযোগ্য যে এই ৮,৬১,০০০৲ টাকা যেমন অধিক ব্যয় হইবে তেমনি আয়ের দিকে ১৬,৫০,০০০৲ টাকা অধিক রাজস্ব পাওয়া যাইবে বলিয়া আশা করা যায়।

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Hem Chandra Naskar that a sum of Rs. 8,61,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.

The Hon'ble Sri KALIPADA MOOKERJEE: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 50,65,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" during the current year.

A sum of Rs. 91,17,000 has been paid to the Damodar Valley Corporation on account of this Government's share of the cost of the Damodar Valley Project during the current financial year. No provision for this charge was made in the current year's budget as no estimate of the cost of the project for 1948-49 was available at the time. A portion of the charge will be met by reappropriation of savings within Grant No. 10—Irrigation. A supplementary grant of Rs. 50,65,000 is required to meet the balance of the charge.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Kalipada Mookerjee that a sum of Rs. 50,65,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

25—General Administration—General Administration.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 13,09,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" during the current year.

Sir, of this sum, Rs. 9,00,000 is required for preparing the electoral rolls prior to elections for Legislatures. With regard to the other two items, Sir, these are all matters of importance and I shall refer to them in detail when I am moving the budget for the next year and I shall then put the explanation which the members demand from me.

The motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy that a sum of Rs. 13,09,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

28—Jails and Convict Settlements.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,93,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" during the current year.

The reason why this demand is being made is mentioned in the brochure that has been circulated.

The motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy that a sum of Rs. 1,93,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

29—Police.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 34,36,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "29—Police" during the current year.

Sir, the reasons why these additional grants are required are mentioned in the brochure that has been circulated but the members here have raised certain general questions regarding the Police Department which I shall have the pleasure to reply in greater detail when the budget of the next year is being considered.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a cut motion of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerji but that is out of order because it aims at discussing the general policy.

The motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy that a sum of Rs. 34,36,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "29—Police" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

30—Ports and Pilotage.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "30—Ports and Pilotage" during the current year.

The reasons for the same are given in the brochure.

The motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy that a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "30—Ports and Pilotage" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

38—Medical.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 16,63,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" during the current year.

The reasons for the same are given in the brochure.

The motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy that a sum of Rs. 16,63,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

39—Public Health.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 5,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" during the current year.

The reason is to drive away plague from Calcutta.

The motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy that a sum of Rs. 5,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

41—Veterinary.

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,29,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" during the current year.

The reasons for asking this grant are given in the Explanatory Memorandum.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Jadabendra Nath Panja that a sum of Rs. 1,29,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

43—Industries—Cinchona.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,68,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

47—Miscellaneous Departments.

The Hon'ble Sri KALIPADA MOOKERJI: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,53,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

55—Superannuation allowances and pensions and 55A—Commutation of pensions financed from ordinary revenues.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Re. 1 be granted for expenditure under the head "55—Superannuation allowances and pensions and 55A—Commutation of pensions financed from ordinary revenue" during the current year. The reasons have been stated in the Explanatory Memorandum.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

57—Miscellaneous.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Re. 1 be granted for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" during the current year.

This is due to the expenditure on refugees, and the reason for this grant has been explained in the Explanatory Memorandum.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

63—Extraordinary charges in India.

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,10,45,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary charges in India" during the current year.

Sir, the reasons have been given in the Explanatory Memorandum, but I would like to go into the details.

In the supplementary estimates a demand for Rs. 1,10,45,000 has been included under this head as detailed below:—

Loss on sale of subsidised food—

	Rs.
(*i*) To Public	96,32,000
(*ii*) To Government servants	14,13,000

Sir, you know that West Bengal is a highly deficit province and in spite of our best endeavour for internal procurement we have to import rice from foreign countries. So far as wheat and wheat products are concerned, our production is almost nil and we have to import the whole of wheat and wheat products requirements from foreign countries.

Regarding (*i*), that is, the loss on sale of subsidised food to the public, the Civil Supplies Department is directly concerned. Regarding item (*ii*), it relates to the Finance Department because we subsidise food to certain categories of Government servants. The reason for this demand is that the pool prices of wheat, barley, flour and maize were raised by the Government of India with effect from 1st January, 1948, from Rs. 10 to Rs. 17—wheat; barley from Rs. 7-13 to Rs. 17-4; flour from Rs. 13-6 to Rs. 21-10; and maize from Rs. 7-13 to Rs. 15-15 per maund. These rates were intimated to this Government only in March and April, 1948, that is, long after the preparation of the Budget estimates of the current year. Hence the loss could not be provided for in the original estimates for 1948-49. In order to reduce the loss to some extent the selling prices of wheat, barley, atta and maize were revised during the course of the year 1948-49, and the Government of India also intimated that this Government would receive subsidies from them on account of the increase in the pool prices to the extent of two-thirds of the total loss up to September, 1948, and three-fourths with effect from October, 1948. The pool prices of wheat, barley and maize have been reduced by the Government of India to Rs. 15, Rs. 11-4 and Rs. 11-4 per maund respectively from 1st January, 1949. The revised pool price of flour has not yet been communicated to this Government. The total loss on the trading operation of wheat and wheat products for the period from 1st January, 1948, to 31st March, 1949, has been estimated at Rs. 3,00,13,000. Out of this total loss Rs. 2,03,81,000 will be borne by the Government of India and the balance of Rs. 96,32,000 by this Government. As the original estimate for 1948-49 did not include any provision for this loss, a provision of Rs. 96,32,000 has been included in the Supplementary Budget Estimates for the year 1948-49.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Prafulla Chandra Sen that a sum of Rs. 1,10,45,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary charges in India" during the current year, was then put and agreed to.

64C—Pre-partition Payments.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,00,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "64C—Pre-partition Payments" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

XLVIA—Receipts from Road Transport Scheme—Working Expenses and 82B—Capital Outlay on Road Transport Scheme outside the Revenue Account.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 60,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "XLVIA—Receipts from Road Transport Scheme—Working Expenses and 82B—Capital Outlay on Road Transport Scheme outside the Revenue Account" during the current year.

Sir, as has been explained in the explanatory memorandum a sum of Rs. 60,00,000 was voted last year, but the Auditor-General requested the Government to put it in another shape and the shape is now before the House, namely, working expenses in connection with State Transport Service put down at Rs 8,16,000, and the Capital Outlay on State Transport Service at Rs. 51,84,000 up to the 31st March, 1949. The recurring receipt in connection with the working of the scheme for this year is estimated at Rs. 10,42,000. The scheme has not been in full operation yet. It began to work from the month of August, 1948, and yet in eight months' time that was to go we have got about Rs. 2,32,000 as profit on the amount that has been spent on the working expenses and the capital outlay. When all the buses that have been purchased are put on the road I am perfectly sure that the figures of the receipts will show a much bigger sum, particularly when the whole year's account is taken.

I beg to move that the sum of Rs. 60,00,000 be provided.

The motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy that a sum of Rs. 60,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "XLVIA—Receipts from Road Transport Scheme—Working Expenses and 82B—Capital Outlay on Road Transport Scheme outside the Revenue Account" during the current year, was then put and agreed to.

Interest-free Advances.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 10,87,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Interest-free Advances" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Loans and Advances by Provincial Governments.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,11,60,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances by Provincial Governments" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 5-33 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the 15th March, 1949, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 15th March, 1949, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 52 members.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Allegation against one Madan Mohan Trivedi, Inspector of Co-operative Societies, Jangipur, Murshidabad

***28. Sri KUBER CHAND HALDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operation Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that one Nakul Halder of Gujirpur complained six months ago to the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, against one Madan Mohan Trivedi, an Inspector of Co-operative Societies, Jangipur (Murshidabad), to the effect that he demanded one hundred rupees as bribe for registering the Co-operative Society of the fishermen; and

(*ii*) that the copy of the said complaint was submitted to him?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he has taken in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sri Nikunja Behary Maity): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) An enquiry was made by the Subdivisional Officer, Jangipur, and the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Murshidabad. The complaint was found to have no basis in fact.

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহোদয় বলবেন কি যে যিনি এই অভিযোগ করেছিলেন তিনি এই যে তদন্তের ফল হ'ল তাতে সন্তুষ্ট হয়েছেন কি?

The Hon'ble Sri NIKUNJA BEHARY MAITY: I am not aware of that.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, evidently the Hon'ble Minister has not understood the question. The honourable member wanted to know if the Hon'ble Minister was satisfied with the result of the enquiry made, and the Hon'ble Minister condescended to reply "I am not aware".

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: We need Mallinath! (Laughter.)

Authenticated Schedule of Supplementary Estimate, 1948-49.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, in pursuance of sub-section (*2*) of section 80 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947, I beg to lay before the Assembly the Schedule of Supplementary Expenditure for 1948-49 as authenticated by His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal under section 81 read with sub-section (*1*) of section 80 of the Act.

GOVERNMENT BILLS.

The West Bengal Molasses Control Bill, 1949.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Sir, I beg to introduce the West Bengal Molasses Control Bill, 1949.

(The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.)

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the West Bengal Molasses Control Bill, 1949, be taken into consideration.

Briefly explained, the reasons for this Bill are that molasses is required for the manufacture of alcohol which is one of the essential industries of this province being used not only in beverages but also in medicinal and other preparations such as paints, varnishes, soaps and dyes. The molasses required by distilleries is a by-product of sugar mills. This province is greatly deficient in molasses and has to buy large quantities from Bihar and United Provinces where it is a controlled commodity. In addition it has to utilise to the maximum extent the small supply that is available from sources within the province, namely, sugar mills and large stockists. This is done by the use of the Bengal Molasses Control Ordinance, 1946, which is now kept in operation by the West Bengal Expiring Laws Act, 1948, but as this Act will expire on the 31st March, 1949, and as the necessity for control is likely to continue for some years, the present Bill has been brought before the House.

Sub-clause (4) of clause 1 of the Bill provides that the Act will remain in force for three years in the first instance and, if necessary, for a further period or periods not exceeding two years in the aggregate. Clause 3 gives the necessary powers to Government to control production and distribution of molasses.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in introducing this Bill has tried to make out a case that molasses ought to be used in the distilleries for manufacture of alcohol or alcoholic beverages, but, Sir, he has forgotten that there is another and a very large body of consumers, namely, the manufacturers of indigenous tobacco, the *hukka* tobacco manufacturers. Nowhere in the Bill, neither in the Statement of Objects and Reasons not in the body of the Bill, is there any mention of those consumers. Sir, I should like to ask the Hon'ble Minister through you, Sir, to tell the House whether he has them in contemplation and whether that body of consumers will also reap the benefit of this Act.

Apart from that this measure provides a glimpse into the mind of the Ministry. If you look into the Statement of Objects and Reasons, you will find that this measure is designed for an initial period of three years in the first instance and, if necessary, it may be extended for two years more.

Sir, Government want to supply molasses to the distilleries for the manufacture of alcohol as also alcoholic beverages. That shows that Government have no intention of introducing prohibition in the country. At any rate, the Government are in no hurry about it. If they have any contemplation at all of introducing prohibition in the country, Sir, it will be after five years, i.e., after this Ministry has gone out of office by the usual course of General Election. And what the next Ministry will do or will not do, this Ministry cannot certainly vouch for it. It is certainly not the intention of this Ministry to introduce prohibition. Sir, I have looked into the book of cut motions and I have found that members from all sides of the House and representing all shades of opinion have attacked the Ministry and want to raise a discussion for failure of the Ministry to introduce prohibition. They should take stock of this Bill and I think, Sir, that it will be a pure waste of time to move those cut motions.

Now, coming to the provisions of this Bill, I find in clause 1(4) that "It shall remain in force for 3 years only". Sir, you would please notice how the Bill tries to hoodwink the public when it says "but the Provincial Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, direct that it shall remain in force for such further period or periods not exceeding two years in the aggregate as may be specified in the notification". There is no contemplation that this Bill will again be brought before this Assembly and the opinion of this Assembly sought. Sir, Government are taking powers to keep this Bill in force for 5 years if they so chose.

Again, in clause 3 it mentions that it will provide for the sale of molasses at fair prices. The Government will please tell the House now what they think to be the fair price of molasses and how will they compute the fair price of molasses. By what process and what are the factors that are taken into consideration to arrive at what the fair prices of molasses are or would be.

Then, Sir, in (*d*) it says "for requiring any person holding stocks of molasses to sell them at fair prices to specified persons or classes of persons or in specified circumstances". I do not know, Sir, what is at the back of the mind of the Government when it says "specified circumstances". It is for them to explain, but, Sir, I shall certainly want to know who they mean by "specified persons", whether they mean that body of large consumers as I have mentioned earlier, the *biri* manufacturers or *hukka* tobacco manufacturers as the "specified persons".

Again, in clause 6, Sir, I find in the penal clause the Bill says "that the Court trying such contravention may direct that any property in respect of which the Court is satisfied that the order has been contravened shall be forfeited to His Majesty". Now, Sir, "His Majesty" is a common phraseology with the drafters of these laws and I suppose that there are legal difficulties if we want to do away with these words. I only point out this that this phraseology should be suitably amended, because we have the Constitution of India on the anvil of the Constituent Assembly of India and sooner than this Act expires it will be adopted and, Sir, in all likelihood we shall sever all connections with His Majesty and in that case this Bill will have to be amended. If it is possible we should omit the words "His Majesty" and say that "it should be forfeited to the Indian Union or to the State".

With these words, Sir, I like to again appeal to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of this Bill to tell me and to give me answers to the questions that I have put.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Is there nobody else who is wanting to be informed?

(There was none.)

My friend here is fond of listening to his own voice. If he had read the Bill a little he could have answered his own questions that he has just put before us. For instance, he asks, "Is it meant only for the drinkers and those who use wine and alcohol, or is it meant for other purposes?" If you read through the Bill it says: "The Provincial Government, so far as it may be necessary or expedient for maintaining or increasing the supply of molasses or for securing equitable distribution or availability of molasses at fair prices may, by notified order, provide for regulating or prohibiting the production, supply and distribution." Where does it say that it would only be distributed to the wine distilleries? (Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: That is mentioned.) I know. Let him please not interrupt me. Let him be satisfied with what I have got to say and I hope he will be satisfied. But you cannot satisfy everybody. You cannot satisfy a person who does not want to be satisfied. It is impossible for anybody to satisfy such a person. There are some people whom you can make understand things. But there are some who refuse to understand and therefore

it is very difficult to make him understand. Why in the Statement of Objects and Reasons the question of distilleries and so on has been mentioned is because they are the largest consumers. But that does not mean it includes everybody; that should have been apparent to my friend over there. Secondly, he tried to draw a red herring across the track by asking, "Are you not going to start prohibition; if so why do you want to continue the Act for five years?" We know exactly what our commitments are; he need not remind us about it. We need rectified spirit for various other purposes besides the provision of drink, namely, for paint, varnish or medicines and I hope Bengal will, as it has been in the past, be the centre where drug will be manufactured in increasing quantities from year to year. Therefore, Sir, these are the reasons why the period has initially been fixed at three years but then you cannot properly organise a particular trade unless you have the thing running at least for five years, and so there is provision to extend it by another two years.

Then, Sir, as regards his question "Why should it be forfeited to His Majesty" I thought he was a good legislator and as such he would have known that at the present moment while the country is still a part of the Dominion there are certain forms which you must observe and as soon as the conditions change the forms also would change automatically. One Order or an Adaptation Order as it is called, would be circulated for all such purposes. Unless he thinks that because he has got to raise some objection somewhere and therefore he has raised this objection, this objection is not relevant now. In my Old Council days a gentleman got up to say something because he wanted to occupy a little time of the House and he found there was one item called "Crude Oil Engines" and he started by saying, "Sir, I object to everything crude. If it was a 'fine oil engine' I would have agreed; since it is a crude oil engine I oppose." That is the sort of an argument which my friend over there has put forward. I do not think there is anything there which needs explaining very much. It has been in operation for the last 3/4 years and will require another 3/4 years unless we find some other method of producing power alcohol or other types of alcohol about which we are investigating at the present moment.

The motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy that the West Bengal Molasses Control Bill, 1949, be taken into consideration was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 3.

The question that clause 3 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 4.

The question that clause 4 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 5.

The question that clause 5 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 6.

The question that clause 6 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 7.

The question that clause 7 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 8.

The question that clause 8 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 9.

The question that clause 9 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 10.

The question that clause 10 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the Preamble do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: I beg to move that the West Bengal Molasses Control Bill, 1949, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Calcutta Improvement (Amendment) Amending Bill, 1949.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Calcutta Improvement (Amendment) Amending Bill, 1949.

(The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.)

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the Calcutta Improvement (Amendment) Amending Bill, 1949, be taken into consideration.

Sir, the Calcutta Corporation was superseded up to 31st March, 1949, under the Corporation of Calcutta Temporary Supersession Act, 1948. That Act has been amended so as to empower the Provincial Government to extend the period of supersession up to 31st March, 1950. Now, this Bill seeks to amend the Calcutta Improvement (Amendment) Act, 1948, so that the provision made in it for appointment by the Provincial Government of three members on the Board of Trustees of the Improvement Trust of Calcutta in place of the three representatives on it of the Calcutta Corporation may have force till 31st March, 1950, instead of till 31st March, 1949. The Statement of Objects and Reasons gives all the particulars.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 3.

The question that clause 3 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 4.

The question that clause 4 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Preamble.

The question that the Preamble do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the Calcutta Improvement (Amendment) Amending Bill, 1949, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: At this stage, Sir, I would like to ask the Hon'ble the mover of this Bill a question. The Calcutta Corporation is the biggest autonomous body in Bengal. It was expected that Calcutta would be given proper opportunities to govern the city by its elected representatives. Sir, the Calcutta Corporation has been superseded, and I take it that it was superseded as the Government thought that the administration of the Corporation was not quite happy. But, Sir, it has been our custom here in Bengal—I do not know what happens elsewhere—that when a municipality or district board or corporation is found guilty of corruption, etc., Government comes forward and supersedes the body only with a view to create fresh opportunities for free election so that the outgoing members of the superseded body might be confronted with their constituencies and answer all charges of mal-administration. Here, Sir, I presume that for similar reasons the Corporation was superseded, but we find no sign that the Government desire to arrange for new elections.

Sri D. N. MUKHERJI: On a point of order, Sir. Is there any relevance of the speech that the honourable member is delivering with the subject matter of the present Bill?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the subject matter of the Bill is only for the appointment of three members on the Board of Trustees of the Calcutta Improvement Trust in place of the three representatives of the Corporation of Calcutta and that therefore the honourable member should confine himself to make his speech relevant to the subject matter of this Bill. As, however, he is speaking on the third reading of the Bill I cannot prevent him from making a speech by which he can deal in detail with all the matters relating to it. Still, I hope, he will confine himself to the subject matter of the Bill.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Sir, I beg to submit that the Hon'ble the mover of the Bill while proposing consideration of this Bill said that since by an amendment of the Calcutta Corporation Temporary Supersession Act the period of supersession has been extended till 31st March, 1950, and since there is a provision in that amending Bill for appointment of three members to the Calcutta Improvement Trust Board in place of the three representatives of the Calcutta Corporation——

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: May I correct him, Sir? Along with the supersession of the Calcutta Corporation by the Calcutta Corporation Temporary Supersession Act, there was another amendment to the Improvement Trust (Amendment) Act by which the three Trustees of the Calcutta Improvement Trust Board nominated by the Calcutta Corporation were to be nominated by the Provincial Government. That is another Act which we have passed. Today we are confronted with this that after that Amending Bill had been passed, the Corporation of Calcutta Temporary Supersession Act has been extended by another year, and therefore the latter amending Act has to be extended by another year, and hence this Bill has been brought forward. That is the proposition, Sir.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Sir, I realise that if this Bill is not passed, there will be some difficulty in keeping the Calcutta Corporation under supersession. Anyway, I would like the honourable mover of the motion to answer my question as to how long he proposes to keep the Calcutta Corporation under supersession and what has been the result of this supersession, whether the administration has improved and the city is in a position to get a fresh election and have its own people to govern its own affairs.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: If my friend wants an answer to these questions, I am afraid I cannot satisfy him because this is not the place nor is this the occasion to discuss whether the act of supersession was correct or not. Sir, it would be insulting to the intelligence of the House to raise this point when the House has agreed to extend the period of supersession by another year. I am afraid my friend has missed that point. What I propose to do is this. When originally we passed the Calcutta Corporation Temporary Supersession Act, a little later after March, 1948, in the August session we found that the Calcutta Improvement Trust had three Trustees whose term expired by that date and who were nominees of the Calcutta Corporation. As the Calcutta Corporation had ceased to exist, an Act was passed by this Legislature to provide for this emergency and allow the Government to nominate three men in place of those who were to be elected by the Calcutta Corporation because there was no Calcutta Corporation. In January, 1949, the Calcutta Corporation Temporary Supersession Act was extended by a period of one year, and unless you have this Act passed, it is not possible to fill those three vacancies on the Board of Trustees of the Calcutta Improvement Trust after the period of the present nominees expires. Therefore power is being taken by asking this Legislature to let the Provincial Government continue nominating the three members to the Improvement Trust Board in place of the three persons who were ordinarily to be elected by the Calcutta Corporation in accordance with the Calcutta Corporation Act. This is a simple proposition which we have placed before the House for its acceptance.

The motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy that the Calcutta Improvement (Amendment) Amending Bill, 1949, as settled in the Assembly, be passed, was then put and agreed to.

Extension of time for submission of the final report of the West Bengal Secondary Education Bill, 1949.

The Hon'ble Sri Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Select Committee could not finish their deliberations on the West Bengal Secondary Education Bill, 1949, by the 15th March, 1949, the time appointed by the House. The committee will require some more time for submission of the final report of the Bill. So, with your permission, Sir, I move that the date for submission of the final report be extended till the 23rd March, 1949.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the House has no objection. The time for the submission of the report is extended till 23rd March, 1949.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 4-32 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 16th March, 1949, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 16th March, 1949, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 51 members.

Adjournment Motions.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion and I find that you have seen it fit to refuse consent. Sir, may I know exactly on what grounds you have refused your consent to the adjournment motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already stated several times that when consent is refused by the Speaker the reasons are not to be asked for as a matter of right but in this matter I will inform the mover of the motion that, while the Budget Session is on, according to the precedents of our House, adjournment motions are not allowed. Moreover you see the Police Budget is coming on the 18th and the honourable movers of these resolutions will have ample opportunity to criticise the Government if they so desire on their cut motions on the subject matter of this motion also. Moreover I understand that the Hon'ble the Premier is prepared to make a statement not today but tomorrow on the subject. And, under these circumstances, I am of opinion that I will not be justified in allowing this adjournment motion to be discussed in the House.

Janab A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I had also given notice of a similar adjournment motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The same remarks apply to all the three adjournment motions on the identical subject.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: With your leave, Sir, I want to say something. When you were pleased not to allow this motion I had no contact with you but I did tell my Chief Whip that I was prepared to make a statement not today but tomorrow after certain investigations about the facts of the case because I understand the object of the mover of the motion is to find out exactly what has happened and I may assure the members that the situation now is entirely under control and I shall make a brief statement in the House tomorrow if I am permitted by you, Sir, and the members of the House will give me that indulgence.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have no objection to the statement being made by the Leader of the House and I believe that will satisfy the honourable members.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: I certainly shall welcome the statement from the Hon'ble the Leader of the House which he was pleased to say he would make tomorrow. The statement may refer to the facts of the case resulting in the death of one Muslim and injuries to many more Muslims over riots that took place over the Holi festival. My adjournment motion was disposed of without the House knowing what it was about and I wanted to make good that omission by referring to the death of one Muslim and injuries to many more Muslims at Kankinara.

Mr. SPEAKER: When consent has been refused you know, Mr. Khuda Bukhsh, the subject matter of the motion is not discussed. The position is as I have explained to you and the reasons for my withholding consent are already there.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Sir, we are grateful to the Hon'ble Premier for his readiness to make a statement about the incident. Sir, we have been to Kankinara and on the spot——

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret to have to say that I cannot allow a discussion upon a subject about which I have not been able to give my consent.

The Hon'ble Sri BHUPATI MAJUMDAR: Sir, this portion may be expunged from the proceedings.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: I only requested the Hon'ble Premier to visit the spot personally and ascertain facts.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Leader of the House has already promised a statement and if you are not satisfied with that statement you have got the opportunity to criticise Government in the cut motions. I need not dilate on this subject further.

BUDGET FOR 1949-50.

Demand for grants.

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 48,58,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "10 -Forest".

এই সম্পর্কে এই প্রদেশের বন পরিচালনা নীতি সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলা সঙ্গত মনে করি। জলবায়ু ও প্রাকৃতিক অবস্থার সমতা রক্ষা, মৃত্তিকার ক্ষয় নিবারণ ও উৎপাদিকা শক্তি বর্দ্ধন, ঘাস, পাতা প্রভৃতি পশু খাদ্যের উৎপাদন এবং জনসাধারণের নিত্য-ব্যবহার্য্য কাঠ, তক্তা, জ্বালানী প্রভৃতি নানাপ্রকার বনজাত দ্রব্যের নিয়মিত সরবরাহের জন্য বনের প্রয়োজন। বিজ্ঞানসম্মত উপায়ে বন-সম্পদের সংরক্ষণ, পরিবর্দ্ধন, সংগ্রহ এবং ব্যবহার সরকারী বন-পরিচালনার মুখ্য উদ্দেশ্য।

এই প্রদেশের বনভূমির পরিমাণ ৪ হাজার বর্গ মাইল অর্থাৎ সমগ্র প্রদেশের আয়তনের শতকরা ১৪ ভাগ এবং ইহা প্রধানতঃ এই প্রদেশের উত্তর ও দক্ষিণ অংশে অবস্থিত। বৈজ্ঞানিকগণের মতে সাধারণতঃ প্রত্যেক দেশেরই আয়তনের শতকরা ২০ হইতে ২৫ ভাগ বন থাকা আবশ্যক। এই প্রদেশের আয়তনের তুলনায় জনসংখ্যা খুব বেশী, এবং খাদ্য উৎপাদনের জন্য জমির বিশেষ প্রয়োজন। সুতরাং বনের মাটি বিটাইবার জন্য এই প্রদেশে যে পরিমান বন সৃজন প্রয়োজন তাহা জমির অভাবে পুরাপুরি করা সম্ভব হয় নাই। কিন্তু এই প্রদেশে উৎপন্ন প্রয়োজনীয় বন-জাত দ্রব্যের পরিমান চাহিদার তুলনায় অনেক কম। অধিকাংশ জেলাতেই উপযুক্ত পরিমান বন না থাকায় ভূমির উৎপাদিকা শক্তি হ্রাস পাইয়া অনাবাদি পতিত জমির সৃষ্টি হইতেছে। জলাবতরণ ভূমিতে পর্য্যাপ্ত পরিমান বন আচ্ছাদন না থাকায় মাটি ধুইয়া আসিয়া নদীগুলি মজিয়া গিয়াছে এবং যাইতেছে। এই সকল কারণে এই প্রদেশের স্থানে স্থানে বন সৃজন করা একান্ত প্রয়োজন। বর্ত্তমানে সরকার বন সৃজনের জন্য যে পন্থা অবলম্বন করিয়াছেন তাহা বন বিভাগের উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনাগুলির জন্য আগামী বৎসরের বাজেটে যে বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে তাহা হইতে অনেক পরিমানে বুঝা যাইবে।

নদীয়া জেলায় এই বৎসর প্রায় ২০০ একার জমিতে বৃক্ষ রোপন করা হইয়াছে এবং আগামী বৎসর আরও ৬০০ একার জমিতে বৃক্ষ রোপণের ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে এবং এতৎসংক্রান্ত কার্য্য চলিতেছে। মেদিনীপুর জেলায় এই বৎসর মোট ৬৩০ একার বন সৃজন করা হইয়াছে। আগামী বৎসর মেদিনীপুর জেলায় ২,১০০ একার পরিমান বন করিবার ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা হইতেছে। সমুদ্রোপকূলে এইরূপ বন সৃষ্ট হইলে তাহা এই জেলাকে সামুদ্রিক ঝড় ও প্লাবন হইতে রক্ষা করিবে। আগামী বৎসর বিভিন্ন জেলার স্থানে স্থানে গাছের চারা উৎপাদন-কেন্দ্র খুলিবার পরিকল্পনা আছে। এই সকল কেন্দ্র হইতে চারা সরবরাহ করিয়া গ্রামবাসীগণকে বৃক্ষ রোপণ বিষয়ে উৎসাহিত করা হইবে এবং রাস্তা ও খাল প্রভৃতির ধারে ধারে বৃক্ষরোপনের ব্যবস্থা হইবে যাহাতে নিত্য-প্রয়োজনীয় বনজাত দ্রব্য গ্রামাঞ্চলে সহজলভ্য হয়। West Bengal Private Forest Act মেদিনীপুর এবং

বাঁকুড়া জেলায় প্রযুক্ত হইয়াছে এবং এই দুই জেলায় মোট ৭০০ বর্গ মাইল পরিমান বে-সরকারী বনের পরিচালনা সরকার কর্তৃক নিয়ন্ত্রিত হইতেছে। এই বৎসর জলপাইগুড়ি জেলায় সরকারের তত্ত্বাবধানে পরিক্ষামূলকভাবে খয়ের তৈয়ারী আরম্ভ হইয়াছে। উৎপন্ন খয়েরের পরিমান ২৫০ মন। ইহা উল্লেখযোগ্য যে বন পরিচালন সম্পর্কে বন বিভাগকে উপদেশ দিবার জন্য সরকারী এবং বে-সরকারী প্রতিনিধি লইয়া একটা উপদেষ্টা সংসদ গঠন করা হইয়াছে। জনগণের কল্যাণের জন্য বন-সংরক্ষণ প্রয়োজন। রাজস্ব উৎপাদন বন বিভাগের প্রধান উদ্দেশ্য নহে। এই বিভাগের নানাবিধ বৈজ্ঞানিক ক্রিয়াকলাপের জন্য সুদক্ষ ও অভিজ্ঞ কর্মচারী নিয়োগের আবশ্যকতা রহিয়াছে। বনের দুর্গম প্রদেশে বনজ সংগ্রহ করিবার উদ্দেশ্যে ক্রমাগত নূতন নূতন রাস্তা প্রস্তুত করিতে হয় এবং বনের মধ্যে কর্মচারীদের বাসোপযোগী নূতন নূতন গৃহ নির্মাণ এবং পুরাতন গৃহগুলির সংস্কার করিবার জন্যও প্রতি বৎসর যথেষ্ট অর্থ ব্যয় করিবার প্রয়োজন হয়। এই সকল কারণেই বন বিভাগের সাধারণ খরচ অন্যান্য রাজস্ব প্রদানকারী বিভাগের তুলনায় কিছু বেশী। ইহা সত্ত্বেও বন বিভাগ ইহার মুখ্য কর্তব্য অর্থাৎ বন-সংরক্ষণ কার্য্য সম্পাদন করিয়াও প্রতি বৎসরই প্রাদেশিক অর্থ ভাণ্ডারে কিছু নিট্ আয় প্রদান করিয়া আসিতেছে। এবং আগামী বৎসরেও ৪ লক্ষ ৩৪ হাজার টাকা নিট্ আয় দিতে সমর্থ হইবে বলিয়া আশা করা যায়। উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনার জন্য ব্যয় বাবদ যে ৯ লক্ষ টাকা ধরা হইয়াছে তাহার কিছু অংশ ভারত সরকারের নিকট হইতে পাওয়া যাইবে। উপরে উল্লিখিত নিট্ আয়ের পরিমান তদনুযায়ী বৃদ্ধি পাইবে।

আগামী বৎসরের ব্যয় সম্বন্ধে আমার বক্তব্য এই যে ব্যয়ের অধিকাংশই "Conservancy Works," "Establishment" ও Development programme" এই তিন খাতে ধার্য্য হইয়াছে। প্রথমোক্ত খাতে ২২ লক্ষ ৬৯ হাজার টাকা ধার্য্য হইয়াছে। এই টাকা প্রধানতঃ নিম্নলিখিত কার্য্যাবলীর জন্য ব্যয় করা হইবে।--

(১) সরকারী এবং বে-সরকারী লোক মারফত কাঠ ও অন্যান্য বন-জাত দ্রব্য বন হইতে অপসারণ..... .....৭,৫৯,০০০৲ টাকা।

(২) শিলিগুড়ি সরকারী কাঠ চেরাই কারখানায় (Saw-mill) গাছ খণ্ডিত করিয়া খণ্ডিত কাঠ চেরাই .....৪,৪২,০০০৲ টাকা।

(৩) বন বিভাগের কর্মচারীদিগের জন্য এবং বনভূমির অন্তর্ভুক্ত শ্রমিক অধিবাসীদিগের জন্য বাসোপযোগী গৃহাদি নির্মাণ ও সংস্কার ... . ৪,৬০,০০০৲ টাকা।

(৪) বন পরিদর্শন ও কাঠ অপসারণের সুবিধার জন্য রাস্তা ও সেতু নির্মাণ ও তাহাদের সংস্কার . . ১,৫২,৩৫০৲ টাকা

(৫) বন সম্পদ পুনঃ সৃজন ও রক্ষণ .. .. ২,৬৯,০০০৲ টাকা।

(৬) ২৪-পরগণার সুন্দরবনের ব্যবহারের জন্য নৌকা তৈয়ারী .. .. ৪২,০০০৲ টাকা।

"Establishment" খাতে কর্মচারীদের বেতন, ভাতা ইত্যাদির জন্য ১৫ লক্ষ ৪৬ হাজার টাকা এবং নূতন set up বাবদ ১ লক্ষ ৩৩ হাজার টাকা ধরা হইয়াছে। এই প্রসঙ্গে ইহা উল্লেখযোগ্য যে West Bengal Forest Service নামে একটি নূতন Gazetted Service সৃষ্টির ব্যবস্থা হইতেছে। Subordinate Forest Serviceএর কর্মচারীগণ এই Serviceএ উন্নীত হইবার সুযোগ লাভ করিবেন এবং ফলে তাঁহাদের অবস্থার সম্যক উন্নতি হইবে। West Bengal Senior Forest Serviceএর কয়েকটী পদ promotion দ্বারা পূর্ণ করিবার প্রস্তাব বর্তমানে বিবেচনাধীন আছে। Subordinate Forest Serviceএর জন্য time-scale of pay অন্যান্য বিভাগের সহিত সামঞ্জস্য রক্ষা করিয়া প্রবর্তন করা হইবে। এই বিষয়ের গুরুত্ব উপলব্ধি করিয়া পূর্ব হইতেই আমি ইহা বিবেচনা করিতেছিলাম। উপরন্তু কয়েকজন মাননীয় সদস্য এসম্বন্ধে আমার দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিয়াছেন তজ্জন্য আমি তাঁহাদিগকে আমার আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করিতেছি।

"Development programme" খাতে আগামী বৎসর ৯ লক্ষ টাকা ধার্য্য হইয়াছে। বন সৃজন ও বন সংরক্ষণের পরিকল্পনাগুলি কার্য্যকরী করিবার জন্য এই টাকা ব্যয়িত হইবে।

এবম্ভাবস্থায় আগামী বৎসরে "10—Forest" খাতে ৪৮ লক্ষ ৫৮ হাজার টাকা মঞ্জুরীর প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করিবার জন্য এই সভাকে আমি পুনরায় অনুরোধ করিতেছি।

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Hem Chandra Naskar that a sum of Rs. 48,58,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" was then put and agreed to.

XVII, etc.—Irrigation.

The Hon'ble Sri BHUPATI MAJUMDAR: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 5,25,78,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works".

This amount includes the provision of Rs. 3,39,67,000 being this province's contribution to the Damodar Valley Project for the year 1949-50. The budget of the Damodar Valley Corporation for this year along with an explanatory memorandum is placed before the House.

The provision of Rs. 5,25,78,000 is, however, exclusive of a sum of Rs. 13,53,300 expected to be recovered from the Central Government in respect of certain food production and strategic schemes. Such schemes include the work of remodelling of certain embankments and the investigations undertaken for the Ganga Barrage Project.

I now proceed to give the House a rapid survey of the broad features of my Department's budget which, I trust, will indicate to the honourable members the main lines of policy which we are trying to pursue.

The various items of work in which we are engaged fall naturally into three main categories. These are: (1) the maintenance, repair, extension and improvement of existing works, such as canals and embankments; (2) the undertaking of short-term minor schemes of irrigation and drainage for immediate improvement of agricultural yield; and (3) major schemes for long-term development of the facilities for irrigation, drainage and navigation in the province.

In the first group I should mention that we have now to maintain a length of over 700 miles of irrigation canals and about 350 miles of navigation canals in the province. We have also to look after a complicated system of embankments for protection from monsoon floods of a total cultivable area of about 6,000 square miles.

Minor schemes of irrigation have assumed very great importance at the present day, because these can contribute substantially to an immediate increase of our food production. Certain small irrigation schemes, such as the provision of tanks, wells and minor constructions costing less than Rs. 10,000 in each case and involving no technical difficulty are looked after by the Agriculture Department. My department has assumed responsibility for slightly larger schemes, where technical examination and guidance are found necessary. These schemes cost less than Rs. 50,000 in each case and can be completed during one or two working seasons. We have completed 14 schemes and have taken up 32 schemes for execution in the current working season. The budget also provides Rs. 39,600 to meet the cost of investigation of more minor schemes by technical staff.

I should mention that the initiative for formulating these minor schemes comes mainly from the people of the localities where they are taken up. District meetings of official and non-official representatives consider the pressing local needs and forward proposals through the District Officers for examination by our technical officers. A large number of these proposals has been received, but limitations of technical staff inevitably impose a delay in bringing them to a state of readiness for actual implementation.

Our main hope of effecting a permanent improvement in the situation must be centred, however, on long-term projects of development. We are apt to be impatient with these, because by their very nature, they entail large present outlays and cannot yield material returns in the immediate

future. But we cannot live a hand-to-mouth existence for all time. We must be capable of taking long-range views. While the pressing problem of food scarcity in this year and the next must be met with immediate measures, let us not forget that our fundamental task is to ensure an even distribution of water facilities throughout the year, in that we can raise a number of crops in all the seasons instead of confining ourselves to kharif cultivation in the monsoon only. Minor schemes can take water to fields during the monsoon period, but cannot store water for release in dry seasons. For this we have to go in for erection of dams and what are called multi-purpose projects which embrace the comprehensive development of entire regions and river valleys.

The most widely known of these comprehensive schemes is the Damodar Valley Project of which the expected benefits have been recounted so often as to require no further recapitulation. My department is, of course, not responsible for the execution of this scheme, but we have provided a sum of Rs. 3,39,67,000 in the budget as our share of the estimated expenditure on the scheme in 1949-50.

The entire list of large-scale development schemes on which we are engaged will be found in the papers already circulated and I do not propose to take the time of the House by enumerating them again. As will be recalled by honourable members, an important step in implementing one of these schemes, namely, the Mor Irrigation Scheme, was taken only a few days ago when the foundation stone of the barrage at Suri was laid by Hon'ble Minister Sj. Gadgil and an agreement was arrived at with the Government of Bihar regarding the erection of the dam within that province. Two other important schemes are in the investigation stage. These are for the erection of a barrage across the Ganges at or near Farakka which is expected to revive the Bhagirathi river system and provide a direct road-rail link with the northern part of the province and, secondly, for providing a proper drainage arrangement for the greater Calcutta area.

I would now like to draw the attention of the House to the lump provision made in the budget of a sum of Rs. 1,92,000 for the new set-up of this Department as a whole. This sum is intended to meet the increased expenditure on establishment which will have to be incurred when the revised set-up of all the offices under this Department, which are at present under scrutiny of the Special Officer, Finance Department, are sanctioned. The vastly increased activities of this Department during recent years due to the taking up of the heavy programme of work have necessitated the proposed expansion of the Department.

Before I conclude, I should like to stress that limitations imposed by shortage of finance, building materials, particularly cement, bricks, iron and steel and of machineries, as well as by the prevailing shortage of labour and trained technical personnel have compelled this Department to severely curtail its programme and many good schemes have had to be postponed for the time being, much as we would like to take them up. The achievement of Independence naturally led our people to expect much from such nation-building departments as this Department, but they should ponder over the limitations referred to and be not too critical of our programme for the ensuing year. To the critics who may feel inclined to condemn our programme as being too ambitious, having regard to the aforesaid limitations, our answer is that we have fully weighed our resources and feel convinced that, if no unforeseen difficulties arise, we shall be able to carry through the programme budgeted for the ensuing year.

In bringing forward this motion, I desire to refer to the cut motions proposed under items 2, 8 and 9. The questions raised by the proposers of these motions have been fully considered by the Department and it has been generally agreed that the local influence of public men interested in local irrigation projects, particularly the representatives of the people from

that area, is essential to create an atmosphere which would help in giving effect to the irrigation schemes, by utilising local efforts in providing labour wherever necessary and using their influence for completing the schemes.

The question for construction of a drainage sluice at Jhikra and at Lot No. 8 Khal in the Diamond Harbour subdivision, 24-Parganas district, will be considered from this point of view at an early date. The question of providing irrigation for the district of Jalpaiguri will also be considered.

The provision for irrigation schemes in rural areas, particularly in the district of Murshidabad, which district my friend Sri Kuber Chand Haldar represents, is a difficult matter altogether. In Murshidabad district there are large tracts of lands which get inundated by flood water from the rivers but due to high level of river beds it is difficult for the flood water to get back into the river or have a proper outlet. The problem of the district is not merely one of irrigation but also provision for outlet of flood water which overflows the land. It has therefore been suggested by the Government of West Bengal that a barrage on the Ganges be constructed at the top of Murshidabad district. The scheme which has now been accepted by the Central Government is being pursued with vigour: once this is accomplished, the difficulties now experienced in this area may be expected to be removed.

With these observations, I move the motion that stands in my name.

Janab SYED BADRUDDUJA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,25,78,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this in order to raise a discussion about the imperative need of a comprehensive plan of irrigation including projects connected with "Grow More Food" campaign for improving the food position of the province.

I beg to move that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this in order to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to formulate any scheme for protecting Dhulian town in Murshidabad from devastation caused by the Padma.

I beg to move that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this in order to raise a discussion about the delay of the Government in taking up irrigation schemes in the districts of Murshidabad, Birbhum, Bankura and Nadia resulting in repeated failure of crops due to drought.

Sir, during general discussion of the budget I congratulated the Finance Minister for provision under this head and other important nation-building departments as well. But, Sir, I feel that some of the projects and plans that have been conceived in the past have not borne appreciable results. Naturally, therefore, in the midst of this plethora of projects and plans, I am at a loss to determine as to whether the same experiment will be repeated in future. In the past, Sir, there have been many programmes and projects. In the year 1943-44, while the House was discussing the Mor Project, we were told on the floor of the House that the project had matured much earlier than 1943-44. But, even then, during these long years we have not seen any results thereof.

Sir, I feel that it is time that irrigation facilities were provided more and more not merely through theoretical schemes and projects, but through a dynamic, active drive in the province. Sir, agriculture is so directly and intimately connected with irrigation that better methods, more scientific methods of cultivation, better manures and oil-seeds, more intensive exploitation of land, cannot give the desired results until and unless they are supplemented by abundant supply of water. Coming as I do from Murshidabad, I submit, Sir, that in my own district and in the neighbouring district of Birbhum also, we have seen that we have got to depend very often on the uncertain weather and that there have been repeated failures

of crops due to uncertain rainfall. Government have assured from time to time that they would implement the projects that they have under contemplation, but nothing has so far assumed any definite shape.

Sir, we are already facing deficit in the country. Since after the war we have seen year in and year out how we have got to import foodgrains from outside. Sir, we had to import even during the year 1948, 92,000 tons of rice and 187,000 tons of wheat and wheat products—a total of 279,000 tons in all of cereals—on behalf of the Civil Supplies Department to meet our deficit and yet the quantity per head provided in the rationed area could not exceed 8 to 10 oz. per day.

Sir, we have already had a grave warning from the rice bulletin of the World Agricultural Food Organisation in Washington that the food crisis is deepening in the world and unless India and, for the matter of that, West Bengal also can produce sufficient rice, sufficient cereals, she is bound to perish. The Food Organisation gives this warning that in the year 1948-49 although the food production has been slightly higher than that of the previous year, it is far below—at least 2·9 million below—the pre-war average and in the meantime in all the rice-eating areas of Asia population has increased by 10 crores. That shows the wide gulf that yawns between the actual requirements and actual supply. And naturally therefore it is necessary that there must be intensive drive for agricultural improvement for agricultural production. But, Sir, when we have got to depend more and more upon imports from outside whether in the present unsettled condition of Siam and Burma and Indo-China, the three principal rice-producing countries in South-East Asia, whether in the midst of this terrible ferment that obtains in that part of the world, whether in view of this unfavourable trade balance of India, it is possible to bank upon those imports from outside more and more. Naturally, therefore, we have got to depend more and more on internal production. We cannot, however, think of increased production of foodgrains, unless we fit in agriculture into a scheme, a consistent whole, as an organ into a living organism. Decidedly the most important part in this connection is played by irrigation. From the information elicited the other day on the floor of this House from the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, we had definite data that in the year 1943-44 the total gross amount spent on various Grow More Food Campaigns was Rs. 99,90,000, in 1944-45, the amount spent was Rs. 65,45,000, in 1945-46, it was Rs. 84,22,000, in 1946-47, it was Rs. 84,02,000, in 1947-48, from 1st April, 1947 to 14th August, 1947, it was Rs. 33,62,000 and from the 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, it was Rs. 29,12,000. The corresponding increase in maunds of paddy is: 17 lakhs in 1943-44; 9,75,000 in 1944-45; 5,66,000 in 1945-46; 5,28,000 in 1946-47. The results of 1947-48 are not yet known. That shows a downward trend in production in respect of all the schemes for Grow More Food Campaign. In spite of all that we have provided so far you have not shown any better results. The result shows that there has been a lack of any coherent system of plan somewhere. Agriculture cannot be treated as a separate subject from irrigation and *vice versa*.

Then again, there are other subjects also, communication, transport facilities, facilities in various other directions, revision of land settlements, improvement of conditions in other spheres of life, conditions conducive to the growth of agriculture in the province. These socio-economic factors must enter into the entire scheme, if you want an all-round improvement. Sir, the results have been never encouraging although throughout these years we have been providing huge sums of money for Grow More Food Campaigns. I do not understand why the Hon'ble Minister has not provided any amount for the Mor Project which is calculated to irrigate at least 6 lakhs acres of land and likely to yield 320,000 tons of paddy. There are other schemes also worthy of our serious consideration, major schemes which will give us sufficient yield. There are also 47 minor schemes to which my honourable friend has already referred. Out of these minor schemes 19

schemes are to be financed from the Development Grants of the Government of India and the rest, of course, are to be financed from the provincial revenues. True they will give some yield. But, Sir, I am surprised to find that there is no integrated coherent scheme anywhere. The schemes are all disjointed, disconnected and disintegrated. All that I want is a dynamic approach to the problems of irrigation and agriculture. It may be necessary to select only a few items, it may be necessary to select, e.g., agriculture, irrigation and education leaving aside for the present moment all other things. You have to subordinate the demands of all other departments, all other considerations to the supreme demand of these three nation-building departments. After all, you have got to feed the poor people, you have got to clothe the naked, you have got to provide medical aid to the diseased. These three essentials of life have got to be tackled in the most satisfactory and effective manner. I would therefore appeal to the Government not in a spirit of destructive criticism, but only to induce them to take a comprehensive view of the entire problem, fit all these aspects of nation-building departments into an integrated, consistent, coherent and homogeneous whole so that one may depend on the other, one may contribute to the growth and development of the schemes and ultimately lead to beneficial results, contribute to the prosperity of the province, to the progress and development of the nation-building departments. People must be alive, conscious enough of their needs and requirements and that consciousness has got also to be created in them. My intention is never to cast any reflection upon this Government at least under this head. My intention is only to make a fervent appeal to this Government to take up these schemes in an effective manner; in other words, the approach must be objective, must be dynamic and not static, not a repetition of the past failures, not a repetition of the past experiments which have ended in a fiasco giving us no appreciable results, not a repetition of the past schemes and projects, not a continuity of the old stereotyped humdrum state of things. That is not what we want at the present moment. All that we want is that in the interest of the growing needs and requirements of a fast advancing community, in the interest of hungry millions and in view of the necessity of combating the menace that is assuming a serious proportion, all around, you have got to make a dynamic approach to the problems at this juncture.

Sir, I could further submit that out of nearly 13,245,000 acres of land, only 13·1 per cent. has been under irrigation. 278,794 acres of land are irrigated by Government canals, and private canals, tanks, wells and other sources irrigate the rest. Sir, 13·1 per cent. of land has been under irrigation which is at best a poor show. It is time that we did rise to the height of the occasion and try to improve our irrigation. The Hon'ble Minister was referring to the road-rail barrage across the Ganges which provides enough facilities for irrigation and navigation. That is, I submit, a very sound and laudable scheme. We appreciate all that, I would however like to draw his attention to the question of Dhulian in my constituency. The Hon'ble Minister had been to the Dhulian town himself, and he personally saw the position of the city as to how the Padma threatens the very existence of the town. Already a portion of the town is under water and during the next rains it may be completely submerged. The course of the river is at present so dangerous that unless some sort of a makeshift arrangement is made to stem its tide, there is every danger of the greater part of the town being engulfed. This town, Sir, is an important business centre. I would therefore appeal to the Government to take timely measure so that the town may not come under the devastating effects of the Padma.

As regards my next motion, Sir, it refers to general irrigational schemes. The Government have already taken up certain irrigation works and especially the Damodar Valley Project for which three crores have been provided. It is one of the soundest schemes that have been taken up and

we have to await its results. We shall have enough time and opportunities to consider the results of the scheme after two or three years. Meanwhile let us hope that the Government of Bengal and the Governments of Bihar and of India will co-operate and give a finishing touch to the scheme which ultimately requires 55 crores for its completion, and in years to come we will see that Bengal and Bihar are equally benefited by this scheme taken in hand by the Governments of Bihar and Bengal.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,25,78,000 for expenditure under the head "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this to raise a discussion about the inefficiency of the departments and maladministration and waste of funds of the departments.

Sir, I have heard what has been said by the Hon'ble Irrigation Minister and what has been said by my friend Janab Syed Badrudduja, but I do not think there is any substance at all in the speeches which have been delivered by them. Sir, the main thing on which the Congress concentrated its efforts is to organise the villages. The problem of irrigation, the problem of production and all other problems will be solved if these villages are organised. The problem of irrigation, the problem of production, the problem of creating unity in villagers, the problem of mass consciousness, the problem of co-operation and the problem of nationalism is not different from irrigation or any other thing. It was said by Mahatma Gandhi that when freedom had been attained and the British had been removed from India, it was the duty of the real and bona-fide Congressmen to give up politics and to go to the villages to reconstruct them so that real freedom might be attained. Sir, I am an old man of 70 years (I have seen the villages 50 years before) I have seen the villages even 60 years before, and there I saw every village adorned with palm and other trees and there was everything bright in the Bengal villages. In Bengal villages there was clear and blue water, and every village was a scene of serene beauty and serene peace which reigned supreme in the countryside.

Sir, so far as irrigational facilities were concerned, irrigation tanks which were dug and irrigation tanks which existed from time immemorial were kept in good condition by repairs undertaken by the villagers themselves under a co-operative system under the guidance of the panchayets. Irrigation from the *beels*, from the *jheels*, from the streamlets, from the rivulets—it was a wonderful system which was created by the villagers themselves by co-operative methods; and whenever there was scarcity of water they used to put a *dam* over the streamlets and make other devices for the purpose of irrigating their lands. But within these fifty years all things have became dreams of the past. There is nothing like unity in a village; every village is rent by party faction. There is no co-operation in the village, there is no unity in the village, and everybody is against another. If really the Congress want to bring freedom, it is their bounden duty to give up politics and go to the village and raise the villagers and unite them in a body so that the villagers might reap the benefit of real freedom. Sir, this Bengal—this India— is a land of villages. I have said more than once that towns and cities are the creation of the imperialist Pathans, Mughals and Britishers. Sir, these towns and cities were created for exploiting the rural wealth of the rural people to enable them to make themselves great, to make themselves wealthy so that they might live in comfort but at the same time the villagers went to rack and ruin and they were deprived of a decent hut to dwell in and two square meals. Such is the condition of the villages. Sir, if we survey the condition of the Bengal villages 50 or 60 years before and compare with the desolation which has been wrought by the tyrannical British administration, we will find that

it is no wonder that Bengal—nay, India as a whole, has become the poorest country in the world. It has been said, Sir, that the average income of an Indian is only Rs. 25 per year whereas the income——

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: পঁচিশ হ'ল বাঁচবার বয়স, আর নয় আর হ'ল বাহাত্তর টাকা।

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: It may be Rs. 10, it may be Rs. 100, it may be much less—four times less, ten times less, but that does not affect the question. Sir, my friend says, "You are mistaken". I say, you may be mistaken.

Mr. SPEAKER: Don't indulge in such talks across the floor. Please address me.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Yes, Sir, I will address you if you will kindly restrain them. In their exuberance they disturbed my thought and I lost my thread of speech.

Sir, this state of things has been brought about by the exploitation and the bad administration of the Britishers, but the mantle of the Britishers has fallen upon you who always boast that you are নিখাঁটি কংগ্রেসকর্মী and you are following the same bad course of exploiting the people. Sir, what these নিখাঁটি কংগ্রেসকর্মী over there are doing? They are following the same bad method, they are following the same crude method by which they can exploit the villagers and are making themselves more hated than British exploiters themselves. Therefore, I want to invite and draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact, that if instead of propounding bombastic schemes, if instead of following the principles by which these British administrators used to do things, these নিখাঁটি কংগ্রেসকর্মী go to the village and organise the village and convert the whole village into a homogeneous one and then they start a co-operative society and from that society they supply all the needs of the villagers and they make a programme—five years' programme—in which all the minor irrigation schemes will play a useful part and I say that economic freedom will appear on the horizon like a beautiful star. (The Hon'ble Sri NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITY: Amounting to how much money?) No money will be required, because after all where you get your money from. You get your money by exploiting the people. If you really invest the people with full powers of freedom and they organise themselves and co-operate with each other, then by that society you can raise the money and fulfil all the missions which you have taken upon yourselves. That was the proposition, that was the scheme of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, and, Sir, if these নিখাঁটি কংগ্রেসকর্মী kindly take to his scheme and act up to his measage, there will be no difficulty.

Sir, we are a poor people. We have not enough money in order to provide compulsory primary education, and to do and provide other things——(The Hon'ble Sri Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: You are premature in criticising education.) I am not going to criticise. These are all developments—irrigation, education. All these problems can be solved. They are linked with each other, component parts of the same development. So, Sir, it all depends upon organising the villagers. You are taking me in a jesting spirit because you are in a jocular mood, but what I say I say seriously and from my heart and I sincerely believe that the salvation of India, salvation of Bengal lies in following principles enunciated by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

I have nothing more to say. So far as the major schemes are concerned, just like the Britishers over there you have been following the same path and your Mor Project is not a new thing. It was a thing which was projected by those gentlemen who are there. (The Hon'ble Sri BHUPATI

MAJUMDAR: You never attended the foundation laying ceremony.) That is nothing. It is absolutely a formal matter. Whether I attended the foundation laying ceremony or not, if the thing actually fructifies, it is all very good. My attendance or your attendance is of no consequence.

So far as the major schemes are concerned you are to be congratulated for continuing the schemes formulated by predecessors of নির্যাতিত কংগ্রেসকর্মী the Britishers, but so far as the minor schemes are concerned you have done nothing.

Janab MD. SAYEED MIA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,25,78,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this in order to raise a discussion about failure of Government to construct necessary embankment to protect Malda town from the high flood water of the river Mahananda.

Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,25,78,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this in order to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to be alive to the grave dangers of silting up of the chief river Mahananda in the district of Malda and to prepare a comprehensive development scheme for the resuscitation of the said river and other dead and silted up rivers of the district.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়! আমার দুটোই প্রস্তাব দুইটির বিষয়ে কিছু বলবার পূর্বে আমাদের সেচ বিভাগের বর্তমান কার্য্যকলাপ সম্পর্কে কিছু বলতে চাই। বহু বিঘোষিত দামোদর পরিকল্পনার বিভাগের জন্য ভারত সরকার পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকারকে ১২ কোটি টাকা দিতে চলেছেন। এই পরিকল্পনা কার্য্যকরী হলে লক্ষ লক্ষ টন খাদ্য আমদানী হবে বলে আমরা বহুদিন থেকে শুনতে পাচ্ছি। আর একটা বিখ্যাত পরিকল্পনা হচ্ছে "ময়ূর পরিকল্পনা"। প্রায় ২০ বৎসর পূর্বে ইহার প্রথম সূত্রপাত হয়। এই দীর্ঘ কালের মধ্যে এই পরিকল্পনার জন্য কত অজস্র টাকা ওড়ান হয়েছে তার হিসাব কে দেবে? ভারত পূর্তসচিব মিঃ গ্যাডগিল গত ১২ই মার্চ তারিখে এই ময়ূর পরিকল্পনার কার্য্য আরম্ভের জন্য প্রথম ভিত্তিপ্রস্তর স্থাপন করেছেন এবং বলেছেন যে এই বাঁধ তৈরী হলে দেশের লোক অপর্য্যাপ্ত খাদ্য পাবে এবং "সুজলাং সুফলাং মলয়জ শীতলাং শস্যশ্যামলাম্" বলে কবির স্বপ্নও অচিরে সার্থক হবে। কবির এই স্বপ্ন সার্থক হওয়ার আশায় কতদিন আমাদের যে ধৈর্য্য ধারণ করে থাকতে হবে তা জানি না।

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়! দেশের বর্তমান গুরুতর খাদ্য পরিস্থিতির সম্মুখে সেচ বিভাগের বড় বড় পরিকল্পনার প্রচার, প্রপাগাণ্ডা, হিসাব, ষ্ট্যাটিস্টিক্সের ফাঁকা বুলি শুনতে শুনতে দেশবাসী অস্থির হয়ে উঠেছে। বর্তমানের বিষয় এদের একটিও এপর্য্যন্ত কার্য্যকরী হবার কোন লক্ষণই দেখা যায় নি। দেশের বিরাট খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধানের উপযোগী কোন সুচিন্তিত ও সুনির্দিষ্ট উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ ও কার্য্যকরী করতে আমাদের সেচ বিভাগ যেরূপ অকর্ম্মণ্যতা ও অপদার্থতা দেখাচ্ছেন তাতে দেশের জনসাধারণ নিতান্ত হতাশ হয়ে এই বিভাগের প্রতি আস্থা হারিয়ে ফেলছে। বার্ষিক বাজেট বরাদ্দের টাকা দ্বারা সেচ বিভাগের কেবল বিরাট ব্যয় বহন করাই হচ্ছে, অথচ আসল কাজ কিছুই অগ্রসর হচ্ছে না। বহু অর্থ ব্যয়ে নূতন নূতন স্কীম্ তৈরী করার পর কিছুদিন যেতে না যেতেই "বগলে গেল মতটা, ছেড়ে দিলাম পথটা" এই নীতি অনুসরণ করে কতকগুলি স্কীম বর্জন করা হচ্ছে আর কতকগুলি অনির্দিষ্ট কালের জন্য স্থগিত রেখে কেবল সময় কাটিয়ে চলেছেন। এইভাবে সারা দেশবাসীর ভাগ্য নিয়ে ছিনিমিনি খেলা অতীতে অনেক হয়েছে। এখন দেশকে বিপুল খাদ্য ঘাটতির বিপদ থেকে রক্ষার জন্য এবং বাংলার প্রত্যেক গ্রামকে খাদ্য সম্পর্কে স্বাবলম্বী করার জন্য এবং বিদেশ থেকে কোটি কোটি টাকার খাদ্য আমদানী বন্ধ করার জন্য অবিলম্বে কার্য্যকরী পন্থা অবলম্বন করতে হবে। যদি তা না করা হয় এবং যুদ্ধবিগ্রহ ও অন্য দৈবদুর্বিপাকের কারণে যদি বিদেশ থেকে খাদ্য আমদানী বন্ধ হয়ে যায় তবে ১৯৪৩ সালে বেভাবে ৪০ লক্ষ লোক বাংলা দেশে মারা গিয়েছিল তার চেয়েও ভয়াবহভাবে দেশ ধ্বংস হয়ে যাবে।

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়! প্রকৃতির অপূর্ব লীলাভূমি আমাদের এই বাংলা দেশ। অসংখ্য নদী নালা, খাল, বিলই হচ্ছে এদেশের মহান বৈচিত্র ও প্রধান বৈশিষ্ট। এই নদীনালাই অতীতে বঙ্গভূমিকে দিয়েছিল অপরিমিত সুখসম্পদ, অগণিত জনসম্পদ, অমিমিত স্বাস্থ্যসম্পদ; ইহারাই বঙ্গমাতাকে সুজলা, সুফলা, মলয়জ-শীতলা করে

রেখেছিল। কিন্তু যুগযুগান্ত ধরে চরম উপেক্ষা ও দারুণ অবহেলায় এই সমস্ত নদীনালার অধিকাংশই শুষ্কগতি ও শুষ্কপ্রায় হয়ে শৈবালরাশি অথবা বালুকারাশিতে পূর্ণ হয়ে ভরাট হয়ে গেছে। তাই সমস্ত জলনদীর অফুরন্ত উৎস শুকিয়ে যাবার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে পল্লী বাংলার জীবনীশক্তির উৎসও শুকিয়ে গেছে। আজ সর্বহারা মুমূর্ষু পল্লী বাংলা নূতন ভাবে বেঁচে ওঠার দুর্নিবার ইচ্ছা নিয়ে হাহাকার ক'রে তার প্রাণের আকুল দাবী জানাচ্ছে।

"অন্ন চাই, আলো চাই, প্রাণ চাই, চাই মুক্তবায়ু,
চাই বল, চাই স্বাস্থ্য, আনন্দ, উজ্জ্বল পরমায়ু।"

ধ্বংসোন্মুখ পল্লী বাংলার এই ক্ষীণ কাতর আহ্বান বাংলার বর্তমান মন্ত্রিত্ব বসনদের সিংহদ্বার পর্যন্ত পৌঁছিতে পারছে না বলেই পল্লীবাসীর সত্যিকারের কল্যাণজনক কোন উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করা হচ্ছে না—কার্যকরী করা ত বহুদূরের কথা।

যে নদীনালা খালবিলকে আশ্রয় করে পল্লীবাসীরা আজও তাদের মুমূর্ষু প্রাণকে বাঁচিয়ে রেখেছে সেই সমস্ত নদীনালা পুনরুদ্ধার বা পুনর্জীবিত করার কোন সুব্যবস্থাই সেচ বিভাগ করতে পারেন নি। বিশেষভাবে মালদহ জেলার সমস্যাগুলির প্রতি নিতান্তই উপেক্ষা ও তুচ্ছতাচ্ছীল্যভাবে দেখান হয়েছে। বর্তমান বৎসরে এই জেলার বহু জরুরী সমস্যার মধ্যে মাত্র ২-৩টী পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ ক'রে কিছু টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছিল। কিন্তু বৎসর শেষ হ'ল, অথচ কিছুমাত্র কাজ আরম্ভ করা হয় নি। এইভাবে মালদহবাসীকে তথা সমগ্র দেশবাসীকে কেবল ফাঁকি দেওয়া হচ্ছে। মালদহ জেলার ঘাটতি এলাকায় বোরো ধান উৎপাদনের জন্য খাল-বিল-খাড়ি প্রভৃতির irrigation scheme গ্রহণ করলে বস্তুতঃপক্ষে জেলার প্রয়োজন মিটাইবার উপায় হবে।

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়! মালদহ জেলার প্রধান নদী মহানন্দা বর্তমানে শুষ্কপ্রায় ও বর্তমানে শৈবালে পূর্ণ হয়ে যাওয়ায় জেলাবাসীর চরম দুর্দশার কারণ হয়েছে। কালিন্দী, চাঁদন ইত্যাদি অন্যান্য বহু নদীনালার অধিকাংশই ভরাট হয়ে যাচ্ছে। এর ফলে নদীগুলির জল দূষিত ও আবর্জনাপূর্ণ হয়ে নানা সংক্রামক ব্যাধি ও মহামারী বিস্তারের কারণ হয়ে পড়েছে এবং নদী যোগে চলাচল, ব্যবসাবাণিজ্য একেবারে বন্ধ হয়ে যাচ্ছে। বর্তমানে এই সমস্ত প্লাবিত হয়ে দুই কূল ভেঙে রাশি রাশি বালুকাস্তূপের চাপে কত সুন্দর আবাদী জমি ও শ্যামল অঞ্চলকে ধূসর মরুতে পরিণত করে দিচ্ছে। বর্তমানে দেশে চরম খাদ্যাভাব ও উপযুক্ত চাষের জমির অভাব। অথচ নদীর বন্যায় কত উর্বর জমি অনুর্বর ও পতিত হয়ে যাচ্ছে। বর্ষার সময় বন্যার প্রভাবে এবং অন্য সময় ভীষণ জলাভাবে ফসলাদি বৎসরের পর বৎসর নষ্ট হয়ে যাওয়ায় এই জেলার বহু গ্রামবাসী অভাবের তাড়নায় পৈতৃক বাড়ীঘর ও জমাজমি ত্যাগ করে অন্যত্র চলে যাওয়ার উপক্রম করছে। মালদহ জেলাকে ধ্বংসের কবল থেকে উদ্ধার করতে হলে সমস্ত জেলার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় irrigation scheme তৈরার দ্বারা এই নদীগুলিকে পুনর্জীবিত করে জেলাবাসীকে রক্ষা করা অপরিহার্য হয়ে পড়েছে।

স্পীকার মহোদয়! আমার আর একটী ছোটাই প্রস্তাবের বিষয় হচ্ছে যে বহুবার গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা সত্ত্বেও মালদহ সহরটীকে মহানন্দা নদীর প্রবল প্লাবনের ধ্বংসাত্মক আক্রমণ থেকে রক্ষা করার কোন ব্যবস্থাই করা হয় নি। নদীর ধারে সহরের পূর্বদিকে যে বাঁধ আছে তাহা আরও উচ্চ ও মজবুত না করলে প্রত্যেক বৎসরই নদীর বন্যায় সহরবাসীর জলমগ্ন হওয়ার আশঙ্কা দেখা যাচ্ছে। গত বন্যার সময় তদানীন্তন জেলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট শ্রীঅশোক কুমার মিত্র বহু লোকজন সহ দিনরাত্রি অবিরাম পরিশ্রম ও আপ্রাণ চেষ্টা করে বস্তা বস্তা মাটি চাপা দিয়ে কোন প্রকারে টাউনকে রক্ষা করেছিলেন। নদীর বন্যার জল যদি একবার সহরে প্রবেশ করে তবে সরকারী গৃহাদি ও সহরবাসীর বাড়ীঘর জলমগ্ন হয়ে ধনপ্রাণের যে অপূরণীয় ক্ষতি হবে তা চিন্তাই করা যায় না। সুতরাং মালদহ টাউনের এই বাঁধটী অবিলম্বে আরও উচ্চ ও মজবুত করার প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করার জন্য সেচ বিভাগের মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের তীব্র দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি।

Mr. SPEAKER: Does anybody want to speak?

(There was no one.)

The Hon'ble Sri BHUPATI MAJUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will deal with the various cut motions moved by my friends.

In my speech introducing the budget, Sir, I indicated the general lines of policy pursued by my department. Let me elaborate them for the information of the House. It is recognised that only comprehensive and integrated schemes are capable of solving the problem of decadent areas of West Bengal the agricultural economy of which suffers mainly from want

of timely and adequate supply of water for cultivation and sometimes from drainage congestion and floods. A pretty large number of development projects have accordingly been planned and are being pursued with that object. These projects could not have emerged except as the result of a bold policy. These major projects will take time to yield results. Meanwhile therefore small schemes of irrigation, re-excavation of khals and waterways, and such other projects have been taken up from which benefit can be derived in the near future. Local officers and organisations were directed to prepare a five-year programme of small schemes to meet pressing local needs for each district. Such schemes are not to exceed Rs. 50,000 in each case and are to be capable of execution during one working season, i.e., between December and June. A large number of schemes were sent up to Government for consideration. On the advice of the Government's technical experts Government have so far sanctioned 46 schemes at a probable cost of Rs. 7·8 lakhs. Of these 14 schemes were completed before June 1948; work on 14 others was started and is still in progress. Two schemes have been sanctioned during the current working season; 16 new schemes have been sanctioned as Grow More Food Schemes as they are suitable to qualify for the usual subsidy from the Government of India. Steps for the investigation of more new small schemes suggested from districts have also been taken.

The real bottle-neck in the execution of these small schemes as also the development schemes is the scarcity of labour. Contractors have been tendering exhorbitantly high rates for work. I may incidentally say that I brought this question to the notice of all members of this House in a personal letter and solicited their collaboration and help.

So far as small schemes are concerned, I think, reliance must be placed in the main on local effort and contribution. It is therefore for the local people in each area to organise themselves in a suitable manner through Co-operative Societies or otherwise so that they may take up the execution of local small schemes of pressing need. My department have already issued instructions to local irrigation officers to offer technical assistance to such organisations in the preparation and execution of such small schemes.

In conclusion I may say that a vigorous policy of adopting concurrently a long-term and a short-term programme has been adopted, having due regard to the limitations of our resources in technical man-power, money and material and in pursuance of a correct order of priority without wastage of public money.

We have been constantly trying to improve the efficiency of the Department and to remove causes of maladministration.

As regards irrigation schemes in the districts of Murshidabad, Birbhum, Bankura and Nadia, I said in my introductory speech that the Mor Reservoir Project, the biggest irrigation scheme ever undertaken by this Government, is already under execution. The construction of the foundation of the barrage across the Mor river is in progress and is expected to be completed before the next flood season. We have also been able to persuade the Government of Bihar to agree to the construction of a dam and a reservoir at Messenjore in Sonthal Parganas in Bihar. This scheme will revolutionise the agricultural economy of Birbhum and a portion of Murshidabad district. In Bankura district the department has taken up the execution of Kulai Khal irrigation, Berai Canal Irrigation scheme and Subhankar Daura scheme under the Development Plan. The problem of Murshidabad and Nadia is linked up with the resuscitation of the river system as a whole east of the Bhagirathi river. To find out a suitable solution, investigation for the preparation of a scheme for the construction of a multi-purpose Ganges Barrage Project has already been taken up.

As regards the short-term programme 13 schemes have been taken up in the four districts referred to, of which six have been completed.

The problem of erosion at Dhulian is already under investigation. The position of the town is precarious and I have asked the Engineers to do what they think best to save the town as early as possible. I have myself visited the place with the Chief Engineer, but you see the only thing now to be done is not much until we get the technical advice necessary. Unless we are assured by our technicians we cannot undertake to do anything, but the situation is very serious and Government is alive to the situation. As regards the problem of erosion of Dhulian I am awaiting technical advice.

The problem of the Sundarbans is not capable of solution until our experts can formulate the Ganges Barrage Scheme and the Master Plan for the drainage of Greater Calcutta, investigations about both of which are already in progress. We have recently appointed a Sundarbans Improvement Committee to go into the details of the problems of the Sundarbans. We have therefore to await the recommendations of that Committee before embarking on a long-term policy.

The Sankdah Drainage Scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 2,69,154. In view of the curtailment of the Central subsidy for development schemes no fresh schemes can be included under that plan. This drainage scheme has not sufficient Grow More Food value to qualify for execution as a Grow More Food scheme. If the local people are willing to contribute towards its cost, my department will be glad to consider the question of its early execution

The problem of erosion at Malda really covers measures against floods for the protection of a part of the town of Malda, which has grown up since the year 1921-22 in the spill area of the river Mahananda, leased out by the Khas Mahal Department and the local municipality without consulting my department. Bunds erected and maintained by the Khas Mahal Department and the municipality which used to protect this area from floods are no longer effective to resist the onrush of water, as the main current of the river has diverted to pass close by the right bank. The tenants and the lessors are equally responsible for this immature reclamation of the spill area as a result of which the problem has arisen. However, the strengthening of the embankment is expected to be taken up by my department and completed before the coming monsoon. The order has been already issued.

The problem of the river Mahananda has already engaged the attention of my department and I will look into the matter as soon as I get the necessary technical advice. I may inform the honourable member from Malda that we have finished the Boalia scheme of several square miles and the Mullickpur Dawra scheme. We know there are various problems in Malda which Government will have to deal with in future.

I oppose all the cut motions and I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

The motion of Janab Syed Badrudduja that the demand of Rs. 5,25,78,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

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Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to my cut motion I am sorry to say that the Irrigation Minister has not replied to the points that I have made in my speech and therefore it is no use pressing my motion to vote. Accordingly I beg leave to withdraw it.

The motion Janab Mudassir Hossain that the demand of Rs. 5,25,78,000 for expenditure under the head "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then by leave of the House withdrawn.

The motion of Janab Sayeed Mia that the demand of Rs. 5,25,78,000 for expenditure under the head "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Janab Sayeed Mia that the demand of Rs. 5,25,78,000 for expenditure under the head "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Bhupati Majumdar that a sum of Rs. 5,25,78,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expjenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation Embankment and Drainage Works—68—Construction of Irrigation Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works", was then put and agreed to

XLVIA—Receipts from Road Transport Scheme—Working Expenses and 82B—Capital Outlay on Road Transport Scheme outside the Revenue Account.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,55,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "XLVIA—Receipts from Road Transport Scheme—Working Expenses" and "82B—Capital Outlay on Road Transport Scheme outside the Revenue Account".

Sir, in putting this motion before the House I desire to make certain observations. It will be seen on reference to page 102 that the amount of Rs. 1,55,00,000 is composed of two parts, namely, the question of payment of working expenses of Rs. 79 lakhs and capital outlay of Rs. 76 lakhs in the year 1949-50. On reference to the page at the bottom it will be found how that Rs. 76 lakhs is going to be spent. Sir, the position with regard to the road transport scheme is that the Government of West Bengal decided to run a transport service and in the first instance they have purchased 200 buses of which a certain number only are running on the streets, because we have not been able yet to construct a central workshop and to provide garages in the streets where the buses ply. It is intended, therefore, that a large portion of the Rs. 76 lakhs provided for in the budget estimate of 1949-50 will be used for the purpose of purchasing land and construction of a workshop and garages. But, Sir, it may appear that the sum is a huge one. On the other hand, the amount which is expected to come back as income is shown at page 35 which shows that there will be a net profit of Rs. 8 lakhs. But, Sir, this is not really a presentation of a budget or a presentation of account in the commercial sense. The Government of West Bengal intend that this transport scheme will be run on a commercial basis, and for that purpose it has been decided by our Government that there should be a transport authority which will be an autonomous, statutory Board, and very likely the proposal for constituting that Board will be brought before the House at the next session. Sir, it is intended also that this Transport Board will not only concern itself with the running of a few buses in Calcutta. It is not worthwhile in that case competing with ordinary bus proprietors, and running a few buses, but it is intended as a first step towards nationalisation of transport, so far as West Bengal or Calcutta and its surroundings are concerned. Everybody knows that the Tramways Company will be finishing their present term by 1952, and they have approached the West Bengal Government, and we have referred the matter to the Central Government which, after all, controls the proposals in this respect, namely, as to what the Government propose to do as regards extension of the term of licence of the Tramways Company. This Transport Board, when it is constituted,

will have the first duty of considering as to whether the Tramways also could be taken up by the Board and run as a part of the nationalisation programme.

Sir, it has been put in the papers this morning—a news which is more or less correct—that the West Bengal Government is investigating into the proposal of having an underground railway to relieve the crowded streets of Calcutta. Whether that would be possible to bring about would depend upon what expert report we get within the next six months from a firm of French Engineers who were invited at the suggestion of the Government to examine the scheme. Sir, all these proposals have to be covered by the Transport Board. Further, the Government knows that in the various departments—for instance, the Civil Supplies, the Police,—there are a large number of vehicles now being maintained by workshops with their respective staff which ordinarily will be controlled and directed from one central organisation. It is for this purpose that a Transport Board has to be created. Our finding is that this Rs. 79 lakhs which we have put down as the probable cost for running the Board for one year not only refers to the expenses on running a few buses but also covers the overhead charges of the Board which will look after the other departments of transport apart from the buses that I have just mentioned. I hope that the conclusion that the Government has come to will be appreciated by members of the Assembly, and the sum asked for be voted.

The motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy that a sum of Rs. 1,05,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "XLVIA—Receipts from Road Transport Scheme Working Expenses" "82B—Capital Outlay on Road Transport Scheme outside the Revenue Account", was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 5-35 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Thursday, the 17th March, 1949, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.